



# Treasury hare leaves Foreign Office tortoise lagging behind

By ROBIN OAKLEY  
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE British stand for parliament, the Americans run for office. There is a distinctly brisk, American flavour about the John Major campaign. Douglas Hurd paces it the Foreign Office way, waiting for chaps to bring in the tea.

Within hours of Mr Major's candidature being announced, his team of ministerial backers were fitting the telephones numbers had been circulated to journalists and media bids were being canvassed. No holding back there to let it be Mrs Thatcher's day. She surely would have approved such

single-mindedness. The Major team were talking figures by 9 am on the second day, claiming already to have the support of more than a third of Tory MPs.

When he staged his opening press conference at the Treasury, Mr Major was surrounded by ambitious, capable young politicians including Norman Lamont and David Mellor. Although Norman Tebbit has pledged his support and promised to deliver the right-wing vote, he was not in evidence. The emphasis is on the team for the 1990s.

The message was skilfully calculated: Mr Major has not forgotten the C2s who delivered Mrs

Thatcher her election victories and who have lately been defecting in droves.

There was a clear signal that he will not treat every piece of legislation from the Thatcher years as a holy relic, and — at the second time of asking — a clear knockout for the idea of referendums.

The Treasury civil servants had been schooled to cope. But when the press pack trooped next door to the Foreign Office for Mr Hurd's opening shot, it was a different story. Locking the media out in the cold for 25 minutes arguing with "more than my jobsworth" officials is scarcely a

way of winning friends. Somebody might have told them what was coming. For the first 24 hours, the Hurd team had been invisible and unheard while their man was being done down as the "Whitewall candidate" with no grasp of economics.

Mr Hurd himself was crisp and effective in his Thursday night television interview. He sees off all the stuff about his old Etonian background with a reminder that he, too, knows about social mobility as a scholarship boy. He is authoritative on the big questions and has a gift for the odd colourful phrase. He begins to look like a man who really wants

the job. But he starts with the handicap of having signalled only at party conference time that he had other, almost equally appealing, things to do in life.

The Hurd press conference was a touch defensive. Fielding the foreign secretary and his PPS in shirt sleeves and braces helped to counter the image of Whitehall stuffiness. But Mr Hurd was patently less at ease on economic questions and very ready to dwell on his forte of foreign affairs. His responses on other questions were reactive and said too readily into an attack on the Labour party, which is not fighting this election. Where Mr Hurd scored was in

his emphasis on listening, deciding and persuading. But his appeal has been so far to other politicians. That is wise in the sense that it is politicians who will vote in the new party leader. But the reason these politicians discarded Margaret Thatcher was their fear that she could not longer win them a general election. They are looking for someone who can reach out beyond Westminster. If they are going to be convinced of that, Mr Hurd's backers will need to install a few more telephones.

• There was a lull in Michael Heseltine's public campaign yesterday as the team regrouped to prepare an advance on wavering

voters (Lin Jenkins writes). Having called off a trip to the West Country, Mr Heseltine concentrated on wooing the parliamentary party from behind closed doors.

Campaigners rejected suggestions that Mrs Thatcher's Commons performance on Thursday had backfired and cast Mr Heseltine as the villain of the piece. Two snubbed Thatcher supporters from Torbay thought differently and made their point by handcuffing themselves to the railings outside Mr Heseltine's London house, along with a placard saying: "Maggie made us great, you have destroyed us".

## Hurd stakes his appeal on ability to unite party

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOUGLAS Hurd yesterday spoke of the virtues of sound money and social responsibility as he staked his appeal to Conservative MPs on his experience in foreign affairs and his ability to unite the party in time to win the next general election.

The foreign secretary made a review of the community charge designed to make it fairer and more acceptable to the public an urgent priority of a Hurd cabinet. But he appeared to rule out a referendum on a single European currency.

Launching his leadership campaign at a press conference at the Foreign Office, Mr Hurd said that the Gulf confrontation "weighs on my mind among the issues more

### Getting the battle wagon on the road

By WILLIAM CASH

DOUGLAS Hurd's office is directory, a tired-sounding House of Commons switchboard operator said: "You can hold if you like, but the line has been busy nearly all day," the operator added.

Mr Hurd's campaign headquarters is a two-roomed Commons office with three telephones and a facsimile machine. Sir Giles Shaw, his campaign chairman and an executive member of the 1922 committee, admitted yesterday that getting a prime ministerial battle wagon on the road overnight and with so few telephone lines was no easy task.

"We had to get our battle wagon together very quickly. The task was to get enough foot soldiers on the go, reaching MPAs as fast as possible," he said. Sir Giles' "foot soldiers" are the 25 backbench MPs who have offered help to his campaign. Their job, he said, was to sound out political colleagues and attempt to persuade them to join the Hurd ticket. By luncheon yesterday he had more than seventy members pledging their support, with numbers rising all the time.

Added to this entourage of backbenchers are the campaign officers, who include Chris Patten, William Waldegrave and Tristan Garel-Jones. "Over the weekend we will be contacting by telephone those MPs who have expressed an interest, those who have not yet confirmed and those who will be talking to their constituents," Sir Giles added. He estimated that about 160 MPs could expect to receive a call from a member of the team or from Mr Hurd.

Sir Giles thinks that Mr Hurd's trump card is his ability to get on well with members on a personal basis. "Douglas is at his best meeting individuals, he is warm, approachable, kind and helpful," he said.

heavily than anything else at the present time." Referring to the consideration by the UN security council next week of a resolution authorising member states to use force to reverse Iraqi aggression, he said he hoped it would be the latest of the peaceful pressures on Saddam Hussein to encourage him to withdraw.

"I don't know whether those peaceful pressures will work — and that is why I fear the crisis is entering a crucial, critical phase and in the next weeks and months we will be in that phase."

He said that events in the next weeks would require cool, authoritative and resolute handling. "I believe I can offer the country the experience I have gained working with the prime minister at the centre of the world alliance against Iraq's aggression."

Mr Hurd said that improvements to the poll tax were being made but went on: "I do not think that will be enough. It is clear to me from all the messages I have had, not least in the last few days, that everybody wants us to have another look at it."

Mr Hurd's lack of experience in an economic ministry is being cited against him by his opponents. But a important part of his "manifesto" was an exhortation to see the fight against inflation through to success which he said was "essential if we are to safeguard the inheritance of Margaret Thatcher's three administrations".

Mr Hurd said: "We must listen, decide, persuade. That is the essence of democratic government. Assertion is not the same as persuasion. We must spend more time on persuasion."

Mr Hurd was questioned about his social background. An Old Etonian he is viewed in some quarters at Westminster as the establishment candidate.

"I would like you to go to the farmhouse in Marlborough Down where I was brought up. My father was a tenant farmer farming 500 acres. He became the agricultural correspondent of *The Times* and got a number of other journalistic appointments.

"I was not uncomfortably off. I am not saying that. But there was no question of him sending me to Eton if I had not won a scholarship. That is what social mobility is all about."

Mr Hurd supported Mrs Thatcher's pledge that a Conservative government should seek to reduce taxes. There would be no question of seeking to prevent the reforms in the health service and in the educational system which the present government had set in hand.

Asked to define his position in the party, he said: "I come clearly from the centre of the Conservative party. Support for my cause comes from all parts of the Conservative parliamentary party. It is on that basis that the first task, unifying the Conservative party, can be done."



Fighting talk: a shirt-sleeved Douglas Hurd in ebullient form at a press conference in London yesterday

## Major sets his sights on a classless society in Britain by the year 2000

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major opened his campaign for the Tory leadership yesterday by pledging to make Britain a classless society by the year 2000.

Claiming to have won the support of 124 MPs, a third of the Tory parliamentary party, Mr Major undermined his claims for the leadership by stressing that the next election would be decided on the status of the teaching profession.

The chancellor made it plain that he would not hesitate to change the policies of Mrs Thatcher's government where he saw proven need to do so and in response to questions made plain his opposition to the idea of referendums.

He said: "I certainly don't rule out the need for further changes in the community charge. I have become increasingly convinced we will not be able to leave things as they are." But he insisted that any changes should not simply be a matter of shifting the burden from one area to another, seemingly coming down against Mr

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The Chancellor said one of the Government's greatest achievements had been to narrow the gap between blue-collar and white-collar workers. By increasing personal choice and opportunity he wanted to see that gap reduced still further. He warned: "I certainly have no doubt, were I elected leader, I would be able to unite them." Urging the need for greater social mobility, he said there was a need to do more to improve educational standards for the 1990s generation.

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Locked in struggle: two die-hard Thatcher supporters from Torbay, Devon, handcuffed themselves to railings yesterday outside the London home of Michael Heseltine, who is seen leaving his offices for lunch at the House of Commons.

## Promises of poll tax reform may be too late for general election

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

POLL tax reform, promised by all three contenders for the Tory leadership, will be too late to make any difference to what will probably be the last community charge bills before the next General Election.

Reform pledges may win votes from the holders of Conservative marginal seats, but the only way in which a new prime minister could cut poll tax bills next April would be to spend more government money. Using the widely accepted rule of thumb that it costs £1 billion to reduce poll tax bills by £28 per head, the new incoming premier would have to spend £4 billion to achieve an average poll tax bill of under £300 next year.

It would be financially cheaper, but politically expensive, to abandon one of the central principles of the poll tax and exempt the poorest people altogether. Under present rebate rules, 6 million people pay only 20 per cent of the tax and exempting them from payment would cost £500 million, according to Tony Travers, a local government research director at the London School of Economics.

He calculates that a further £500 million would boost "transitional relief" to households whose poll tax bills were significantly bigger than their rates, and £1 billion could be added to the rebate scheme to help middle-income families. "The alternatives are an average poll tax bill of £299, just below the politically significant £300 level, or the cheaper option of abandoning your principles and making the tax much more popular," Mr Travers said. "Either way is much more realistic than embarking on a thumping great review which would have no prospect of bringing

ing about changes in time for a 1991 general election."

The practical realities facing the leadership contenders are that grant levels, spending targets and capping rules have already been announced for next year, and town hall treasurers are now drawing up their budgets. If there is a general election in 1991, there is no way, short of a very large increase in central subsidy to councils, of achieving substantial lower bills in the run-up to it.

Even if there were time, the task of transforming the community charge into a vote-winning tax is probably beyond the capabilities of any of the challengers for the leadership. None of the three has yet spelt out his proposals, but all have committed themselves to making the poll tax fairer.

There are three central issues that must be tackled if the poll tax system is to be reformed, which none of the Tory leadership contenders has so far been prepared to deal with. First, the poll tax is the only element of local government fundraising still largely in the control of councillors. Business rate income and grant levels are determined centrally for all councils.

Poll tax accounts for roughly one-third of all municipal income, which means that that means that a 1 per cent increase in spending generates a poll tax rise of 3 per cent. Council spending has risen by 22.7 per cent over the past two years but, while some wilfully overspent, others are caught by a system of standard expenditure assessments that wilfully underestimates their need to spend. The government also persistently underestimates inflation — next year's allowance is 7 per cent — and has heaped new responsibilities on local government.

Grants to local government from Whitehall have fallen from 59.1 per cent of their income in 1981 to 38 per cent this year. Finally, the loss of business rate income from local firms has deprived councils of a source of funds that used to help to cushion demands on the individual. Rates paid by businesses no longer go

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### THE SUNDAY TIMES

#### Thatcher: the last 36 hours

In The Sunday Times tomorrow Michael Jones, political editor, reconstructs the 36 hours leading up to Margaret Thatcher's resignation announcement. The News Review section presents an authoritative retrospective of the Thatcher years by The Sunday Times' unrivalled team of columnists, and Brian MacArthur asks: Did the press kill Maggie?

#### Cut to the quick

The question is, which snapper represents the essential hairdressing ethos of the post-Thatcher era — anarchic, low-profile, new-age Craig Funks in Shepherd's Bush, or flash, high-profile Nicky Clarke in Mayfair?

Kate Saunders on a teasing problem, in The Sunday Times tomorrow.

#### Gooch's top Ashes team

Graham Gooch makes his selection of the best England-Australia postwar cricket XI in The Sunday Times tomorrow. You could win £2,000 if the team on your Test Selector game card matches that of the England captain.

DAWN broke over Margaret Thatcher's broken and bedraggled army yesterday to reveal a steady stream of deserters limping towards the rival banners of the three men now seeking to profit from her downfall.

Michael Heseltine could boast the support of James Pawsay and Dame Jill Knight, two prominent and senior members of the 80-strong 92 group of right-wing Tory MPs. His supporters claimed that some of the younger shock troops of the Thatcher era were coming to realise that the former defence secretary represented the best hope of carrying forward the radicalism of the Thatcher years.

Douglas Hurd, who was said by his associates to be moving towards 100 supporters, had made a clean sweep of the education department, including Michael Fallon and Alan Howarth, members of the 25-strong No-Turning Back (NTB) group of Thatcher loyalists.

He said: "The thing I find hard to cope with is the people who stand up and cheer and ask sycophantic questions: when they are the same people who have stabbed her in the back. When she sat down yesterday afternoon [after her Commons speech], the vast majority of the parliamentary party must have felt that some of them had made a terrible mistake."

The minister was one of those yet to decide whether to write in Mrs Thatcher on Tuesday and spoil his ballot paper. He said it was almost of academic interest who succeeded.

"It's just about who gets a job now, when it was about maintain-

### THE HESELTINE FACTOR

Q: "How would you vote if there was a General Election tomorrow, assuming (Mr Heseltine/Mr Major/Mr Hurd) replaced Mrs Thatcher as leader of the Conservatives?"

Base:	All %	Gender		Class	DE %	North %	Region	South %	18-34 %	Age 35-54 %	55+ %	
		Male %	Female %									
With Heseltine	760	364	395	329	201	230	293	222	242	222	269	
Conservative	47	48	45	58	45	37	53	52	39	48	54	
Labour	42	42	43	31	46	53	52	35	37	40	34	
Lib Dem	9	8	9	8	5	12	7	10	5	9	11	
Con lead	+5	+6	+2	+27	-1	-21	-15	+18	+15	-13	+8	+20
With Major												
Conservative	45	41	49	59	40	31	35	50	53	33	51	53
Labour	44	47	42	31	51	56	39	56	57	39	37	37
Lib Dem	8	10	7	8	7	10	7	10	7	8	9	9
Con lead	+1	-6	+7	+28	-11	-26	-21	+11	+17	-24	+12	+16
With Hurd												
Conservative	44	39	48	58	40	29	34	49	51	31	50	50
Labour	45	48	43	32	51	58	56	40	38	59	39	38
Lib Dem	8	10	7	8	7	11	7	8	10	7	9	9
Con lead	-1	-9	+5	+26	-11	-29	-22	+9	+13	-28	+11	+14
"Heseltine"	+5	+13.5	-4	0	+10	+6.5	+6.5	+8	0	+13	-3.5	+5

Source: On-Line Telephone Surveys. *The Times*.

## Heseltine still favourite to lead Conservatives to victory

By JAMIE DETTMER

THE Conservatives stand a better chance of winning the next general election under the leadership of Michael Heseltine than with John Major or Douglas Hurd in the helm, according to a telephone survey conducted for *The Times*.

The survey, carried out by On-Line Telephone Systems, suggests that Mr Heseltine's leadership could boost the Conservatives' chances at the next election by five per cent. Mr Heseltine would lose votes among women but would gain extra support from men and the working class. He would attract votes from skilled manual workers — crucial in any election — and from young people under 35. His support is also strong in the Midlands and the North. Both Mr Major and Mr Hurd would slightly improve the party's chances with women and with voters aged 35-45.

Conservative voters are more likely to be loyal to the party if it is led by Mr Heseltine. If Mr Hurd is the leader, 95 per cent of those supporting Mr Major and 85 per cent who support Mr Heseltine would stay loyal. If Mr Major became leader, 96 per cent of Hurd Conservatives would stick with the party, as would 86 per cent of Heseltine Conservatives. But 91 per cent of Major Conservatives and 92 per cent of Hurd Conservatives say that they would continue to vote Tory if Mr Heseltine became leader.

The survey was carried out among 760 electors on Thursday afternoon and evening after Mr Hurd and Mr Major joined the leadership contest.

□ The Conservatives might enjoy a brief "honeymoon" in the opinion polls under a new prime minister, but an analysis of surveys carried out during previous leadership changes point to such an effect being short-lived (Sheila Gunn writes).

For the Conservatives to benefit, the records indicate that the new prime minister would need to call a general election before next spring. The "honeymoon" effect is a recent phenomenon as figures before the 1970s disclose only a marginal swing in support either way during a change of leadership. By comparison, Margaret Thatcher and Neil Kinnock both brought increased popularity for their parties when they became leaders.

Michael Foot's loss of the Labour leadership to Neil Kinnock in October 1983 saw a jump of nine points in the party's support from 28 per cent in September to 37 per cent after the annual conference in October.

Support for the Conservatives under Edward Heath in December 1974 and January 1975 stood at 27 per cent. Mrs Thatcher's victory in the leadership contest in February 1975 immediately restored the party's fortunes to 38.5 per cent. There was a slight drop in the following months to 36 per cent in

March, 35 per cent in April and 36.5 per cent in May.

Robert Worcester, managing director of Mori, said that the Tories would be wise to take advantage of the "honeymoon" effect sooner rather than later. If they wait until the budget period, particularly the spring budget traditionally in March, then that will be the trigger for the ending of the honeymoon because it will focus the country on the handling of the economy. After that, the economic situation is not going to get better in the short term and Labour will again be ahead.

He said that there would also be high expectations of changes in the poll tax under the new leader.

□ The prospect of a new Conservative leader has added 5 points to the party's support in Scotland, an opinion poll showed last night. The System Three poll in today's *Glasgow Herald* puts the Tories in Scotland at 21 per cent, compared with 16 per cent last month. The poll was conducted between November 15 and Tuesday of this week.

## Prospect of children in corridors of power

By DAVID YOUNG

FOR the first time in living memory, the rooms and passageways of 10 Downing Street could be echoing with the laughter of children at play, with a real prospect that its next occupant will be a man with a young family. Neither Mr Hurd nor Mr Major has given any indication that they would live above the office of prime minister, but both have young families. Both have homes outside London, and Mr Major has eschewed the delights of having his two teenagers living at No 11 Downing Street, official residence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, preferring to commute to his home near Huntingdon.

The children of recent past prime ministers had flown the nest before their parents moved in — as, indeed, have the Heseltine offspring — although in recent years Nigel Lawson's young family spent much of their time at No 11 while father was wrestling with the economy and are reputed to have irritated their next-door neighbour, Mr Thatcher, with their choice of pop music.

The size of No 10's living accommodation could also be a problem for the Huds or the Majors, because although it could be quickly adapted by craftsmen that the Property Services Agency has on call, it has, over the years, become a relatively small flat.

The new "first lady" will also find it difficult quickly to stamp her personality on the house because it is presently nearing the end of a £300,000 refurbishment programme, and most of the decisions about furnishings and fittings have been made by Mrs Thatcher. The work is intended to restore to its mid-18th century grandeur the interior of the house accepted by the first prime minister, Sir Robert Walpole, as an official residence for himself and his successors as First Lord of the Treasury.

He said on BBC Radio 4.

With over 100 votes at stake on the right of the party, the three contenders for power were all pitching strongly for support in this area. Mr Heseltine said on ITN news that he was a "radical reforming Tory" and that Mrs Thatcher's young Turks were beginning to turn to him as they realised that their past suspicions of his ideological outlook were misplaced. Sir Neil MacFarlane, one of his campaign chiefs, said that about 40 Thatcher supporters had switched to the former defence secretary.

Norman Tebbit, who has spoken of bringing 80-90 votes with him to the Major camp, has nominated the chancellor as the man who can unite the two wings of the party. Mr Hurd's supporters insisted that right-wingers were deluding themselves if they thought Mr Major was one of them.

They insisted he was "dripping wet" on social issues. But by depicting the right's "lemming-like" rush to Mr Major, they were confirming the impression left by Thursday night's meeting of the 92 group that among right-wingers, the chancellor had the edge over Mr Heseltine, with Mr Hurd lying a poor third.

A senior member of the Hurd team predicted that support for Mr Heseltine would begin to crumble this weekend as MPs faced party workers holding him responsible for Mrs Thatcher's resignation. But with the media full of reports about cabinet assassinations, it seemed unlikely yesterday that one man could take the credit or the blame for ending a political era.

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# World figure who overcame Little Englander image

By ANDREW MCLEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

WHEN Margaret Thatcher took the Conservative leadership in 1975, many feared that her limited knowledge of foreign affairs and "Little Englander" mentality would damage Britain's standing abroad. It was not foreseen that she would become a world figure with a stamp of proportion to Britain's importance, enjoying global recognition on a par with Presidents Reagan, Bush and Gorbachev.

While her fighting spirit won admiration abroad, it was ironic that overseas policy should prove both the making and the downfall of a leader who began as a foreign affairs agnostic. But for Leopoldo Galtieri's miscalculation in 1982 she might never have had a chance to show her mettle. But for divisions on Europe she might have retained Sir Geoffrey Howe's loyalty.

Soon after she won the 1975 leadership contest, it was realised that she had a huge amount to learn but had a prodigious ability to absorb information. Her first forays abroad were not impressive, suggesting a lack of interest bordering on disdain for Europeans. Her foreign policy seemed confined to Cold War basics, robust on the North Atlantic alliance and Britain's relationship with the United States but weak in other areas. It was this which led some to feel she was xenophobic, something later disproved.

When Edward Heath took

Britain into the European Community in 1973, many on both sides of the Commons were unhappy that Britain had been forced to accept the common agricultural policy, abandoning Britain's policy of low food prices and deficiency payments for farmers. Before Mrs Thatcher took office it was clear that eventually Britain would be paying a disproportionate share of the EC budget.

Her battle for a fairer deal was ultimately successful, helped by "soft man, hard woman" duo with Sir Geoffrey. However, the political blood spilt on the way to the Fontainebleau compromise in 1984 hardened her attitude.

Her distrust of an unaccountable bureaucracy in Brussels, coupled with a Gaullist vision of a wider Europe of independent nations, emerged strongly in her speech to the College of Europe in Bruges. Mrs Thatcher relished the uproot it caused, perhaps unaware how much Sir Geoffrey resented the tone rather than the substance of her comments. She believed she had struck a popular chord, but public opinion was changing.

The split led to Mrs

Thatcher being repeatedly forced to give in after vociferously resisting moves wanted by the rest of Europe. There was humiliation, although she never acknowledged it, in her defeat on the Single European Act, which provided for majority voting on EC internal market issues,



Far cry: supporters of Margaret Thatcher in Brisbane displaying their allegiance yesterday during the first day's play in England's First Test against Australia. An abundance of Union Jacks did not help the England team, though, which was all out for 194. Match report, page 28

## 'Bye bye Maggie, we will miss you' but European press predicts faster EC unity

By ALICE THOMSON

"BYE Bye dear Maggie you'll be missed." The Belgian daily *La Dernière Heure* characterised the reaction of West European papers.

The press praised Mrs Thatcher for saving Britain from potential economic ruin in 1979, but said that her European policies could have been catastrophic. Papers also grudgingly admitted that the comfortable alibi of other member states no less disgruntled with EC policies than Mrs Thatcher had gone.

The Rome newspaper *La Repubblica* said Mrs Thatcher's resignation was a welcome relief for the march to European unification. "Her withdrawal marks a turning-point for the Continent. That character so insular, so British middle-class, has weighed on the people of the Continent much more than any other leader of the same period," the editorial said.

In France *Le Monde* asked who would defend Europeans against the encroaching power of Community institutions after Mrs Thatcher. The editorial said: "In defining the interior 'Eurocrats' of Brussels the British prime minister expressed a sentiment shared by many citizens of the Old Continent. Perhaps one will soon notice that Europe also needs a Cassandra."

When Mr Reagan wanted to use US planes based in Britain to bomb Tripoli, she gave full support. Her farewell visit to Washington at the end of his presidency suggested a warm personal relationship. She was probably hurt when it became clear that President Bush was giving more attention to Germany and France than Britain, but appeared to bounce back in August. He has acknowledged that she was a source of strength when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Mrs Thatcher's Middle East policy has been a mixed bag. Her decision to break links with Libya in 1984 and Syria in 1986 showed that she would have no truck with sponsors of terrorism. However, she has been slow to change in the national interest which would have made renewed links with Syria desirable some time ago.

She will also be remembered for her defence of South Africa, against international sanctions, a policy which sat uneasily with her subsequent enthusiasm for sanctions against Iraq. Whether she helped bring about change in Pretoria or delayed it, is hard to tell. Meanwhile, the divisions her policy caused in the Commonwealth have been a source of anger to damage the relationship.

The Spanish paper *El País* said: "Observers do not expect her successor to be an ardent EC proponent, it would suffice if he does not regard the EC as a threat." However, the monarchist *ABC* said: "Thatcher confronted a concept of Europe which other members reject as well while remaining comfortably silent. Now Thatcher will begin to emerge in The Hague and Bonn, in Rome and Madrid."

The French left rejoiced over the Mrs Thatcher's demise, arguing that it would usher in a new era for European integration, but conservatives were cautious.

"Sometimes we were very happy to leave her to fight for us," *Le Figaro* mused, "now we will have to go forward unprotected."

The Eastern European press

looked to a Continent without Mrs Thatcher with even more trepidation. The Hungarian socialist daily *Nepszabadság* said: "Eastern Europe has lost a good man [sic], only Maggie knew where to buy garlic and red pepper in Budapest," and hoped the new prime minister would continue in her vein.

The Czechoslovak papers

hailed Mrs Thatcher's support

for human rights in Eastern Europe. "Mrs Thatcher's departure will sadden many people in Eastern Europe for whom she has always symbolised their hopes of freedom and prosperity based on a market economy," the daily *Lidové Noviny* said.

China reacted blandly to the

resignation, describing the prime minister's role in Sino-

British relations as positive. The foreign ministry said: "We hope that Sino-British relations will be further developed and strengthened on the current basis and we believe that we can work with any of the candidates."

However, the announcement gave the official *People's Daily* the chance to voice its hardest ideological line in recent months. In last year's pro-democracy demonstrations in Peking, students praised Mrs Thatcher as a leader dedicated to defeating communism. The editorial attacked "these hostile Western forces" and called on all members of the Chinese Communist party to "recognise profoundly the now historical inevitability that socialism will replace capitalism".

In Hong Kong officials are

anxiously awaiting the next

round in the leadership contest.

Douglas Hurd, based in

Peking from 1954 to 1956, is

seen as the best informed

candidate on the colony's affairs.

"There's no doubt that

Hurd would be the favourite

for people here," one official said.

"Hurd has proven links

with China; but Major's links

with this part of the world are

based on his brief tenure as

junior Foreign Office minister."

Copies of Mr Hurd's

political thriller, *The Eye of the Dragon*, are being snapped up.

Written in the 1970s, it is

based on a Chinese plot to overcome the British colony by force.

South Africa, one of Mrs Thatcher's staunchest supporters, seemed little perturbed.

*Beeld*, the leading Afrikaans daily said: "While it was of

critical importance for the

past few years who sat in 10 Downing Street, South Africa's international position since February has improved much it is no longer of real importance."

In Argentina the press ran

the resignation with little

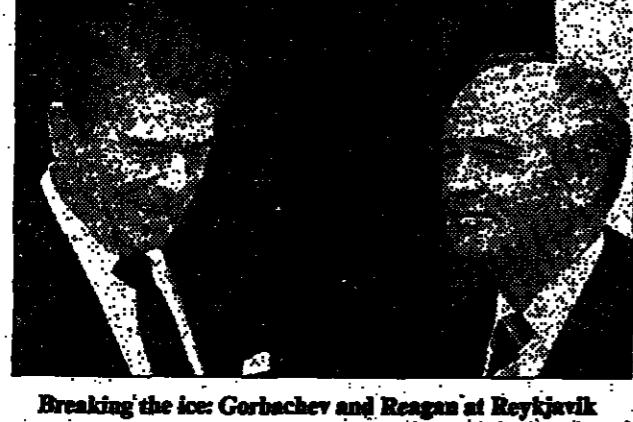
reference to the Falklands conflict.

The evening paper *Cronica* spoke of Mrs Thatcher's "political menopause".

• In Dubai Gulf expatriates are crying into their beer at Thatcher's bar, mourning the downfall of the Iron Lady (Reuters reports).

As drinkers pondered the end of an era, the manager Sam Younger said: "We hope they [the owners] do not change the name. We threatened to walk out if they called it Heseltine's."

Regulars say the bar's menu sounds like a policy paper for Thatcherism — solid fare sometimes difficult to stomach, but good for you in the end. They are wondering what will happen to the Super Monster Thatcher Burger, the Thatcher Party Plan (Food For Special Occasions), and the Chequers Lunch.



## Little US concern at successor's aims

WITH her vision, her intellect and her commanding presence, Mrs Thatcher dominated Britain's politics and its relations with the United States for more than a decade. Americans will miss her but there is no reason for concern about the likely direction of British policies after her.

On Thursday, she bowed to a Conservative party revolt and resigned. The swiftness of her fall and the competition to succeed her guarantees some unpredictability.

On the issues that affect America most, however, substantial continuity is assured under any of the contenders — Michael Heseltine, Douglas Hurd or John Major — or even under Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader.

Washington's most urgent concern is the Persian Gulf. Saddam Hussein would be footloose to anticipate any weakening of British resolve. Tom King, the defence secretary, sent a powerful signal by announcing the dispatch of 16,000 more troops, doubling the British contingent.

Mrs Thatcher once served as defence secretary. Mr Hurd is foreign secretary, and Mr Major

served in that post before becoming chancellor. All are tough-minded Tories.

On the Opposition, Mr Kinnock has steered Labour away from its flirtation with unilateral nuclear disarmament, winning the respect of Washington. Labour has also shed its enthusiasm for nationalisation.

Policy changes are far more likely on the two issues that brought Mrs Thatcher down: Britain's integration into the European Community and the poll tax. While taxation is a purely domestic concern, America can only welcome a turn away from Mrs Thatcher's Little England nationalism, which so divided her from her Tory colleagues.

Convinced that her Western European partners were scheming to ensure free-market Britain in a crypto-socialist regulation, she behaved as though Britain were still an economic superpower. That stubbornness threatened to undermine her greatest achievement: convincing Britain's private-sector entrepreneurs that they could no longer live off past glories and must adapt to competitive realities.

## Tories' switch brings relief to Bonn

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

AT ABOUT the time that news of Mrs Thatcher's resignation was flashed round the world a messenger in the Bundestag came up to where Hans-Dietrich Genscher was sitting next to Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, and whispered in the foreign minister's ear.

With a broad grin on his face, Herr Genscher turned to the chancellor and gave him the thumbs-up sign. Nobody is saying what the messenger whispered — it may have been simply that lunch was nearly ready — but there is little secret about the fact that the prime minister's departure from the European negotiating table is viewed with particular relief in Bonn.

That is not because she was regarded as obstructionist any longer but because Germany considers that she had succeeded in marginalising Britain to the extent that nobody listened to her arguments any more.

There is no doubt in Bonn that if Britain does not agree to join the other 11 EC members in a currency union, then they will simply create

their own treaty among themselves and leave Britain out. Such leading politicians as Herr Kohl and Herr Genscher have decided to make no comment until a new British leader is chosen. Asked if someone could make a kind of farewell tribute to Mrs Thatcher, an official said: "We would find it rather difficult to do that."

Bonn expects Douglas Hurd to be chosen as Conservative leader, but that is largely because he is the only one of the three candidates known here. He made an excellent impression in EC negotiations, where officials noted that, unlike Sir Geoffrey Howe, he confidently took decisions without referring back to London for advice. As prime minister he is expected to be able to bring Britain back into a leading position inside the community.

Mr Heseltine is little known, but since his challenge to Mrs Thatcher he has received considerable publicity. After his recent speech in Hamburg in which he insisted on Britain remaining closely

linked to economic union and rejected any idea of a "hard exit", he is regarded as being a considerable improvement on Mrs Thatcher.

John Major is the least known of all, and because he is the architect of the "hard exit" plan is viewed with the most suspicion. The Bundesbank does not like the idea and the government here initially accepted that, as the correct assessment.

The Bundesbank rules for creating a European central bank and for economic and currency union are the ones that Germany means to persuade the community to accept.

That, unlike Sir Geoffrey Howe, he confidently took decisions without referring back to London for advice. As prime minister he is expected to be able to bring Britain back into a leading position inside the community.

English language papers in Hong Kong carry news of Mrs Thatcher's departure and the race to succeed her

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## Haughey makes plea for ancient gold collar

Barbary, the Irish  
adventurer, yesterday de-  
clared that he claims to be  
the author of the return of a bronze  
statue of a lion which he excavated in the  
Pyramids and exposed,  
and which is being held in  
London. Mr. Barbary said that the  
statue, which is of  
bronze and could be worth the  
sum of \$10,000, had been the  
subject of inquiries by the  
British Museum since 1875.  
Mr. Barbary said a Nubian  
man, who had sold him  
the statue for \$12,000 from  
a museum, had  
recently sold it to the  
British Museum, and  
had given up its value, had  
been collecting, page 21

## SOS number for EC states

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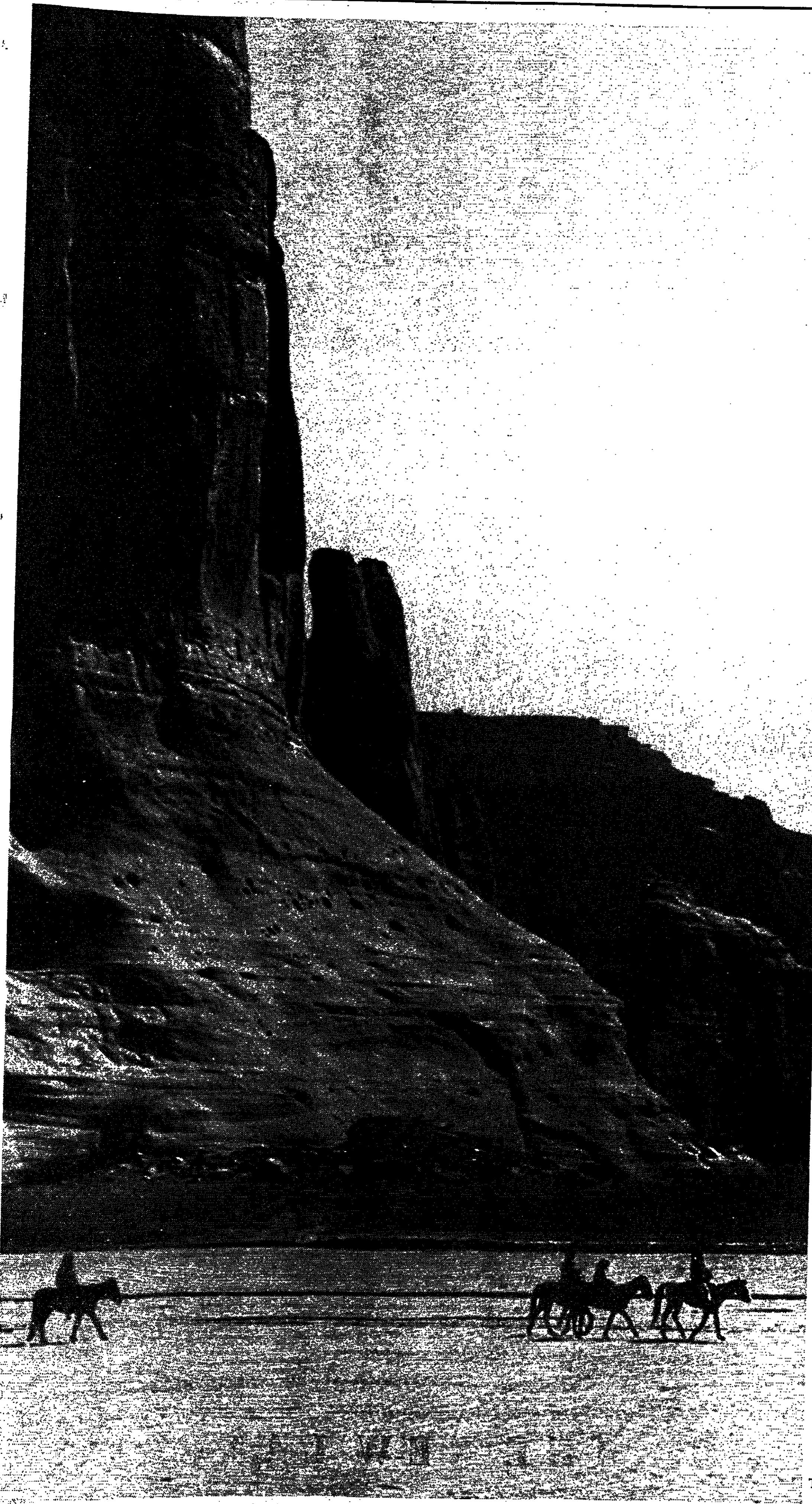
## Pacifist jailed

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Mike's car

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"I have been  
away from  
Arizona for  
too long.  
The acorns  
and the  
piñon nuts,  
the golden  
crocus, the  
red flame  
of the  
candle bush,



the quail  
and the  
wild turkey,  
the giant  
cactus and  
the palo  
verdes, they  
all miss me.  
I miss them,  
too. I want  
to go back  
to them."

*Geronimo  
Ciricabu Apache*

**TWA**  
To the State of Arizona.

# Boxer accepts £50,000 over action for false imprisonment

By DAVID YOUNG

THE former world light-middle-weight boxing champion, Maurice Hope, accepted £50,000 agreed High Court damages from the Metropolitan Police yesterday in settlement of his action against the force for alleged false imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

The 38-year-old boxer, who manages Antigua's national team and was made a MBE in recognition of his services to the sport, said that the damages and about £20,000 in costs would be invested to help others who found them selves in a similar predicament.

His counsel, Robert Englehart, QC, told the hearing before Mr Justice French that Mr Hope was charged with an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act after he was arrested in October 1988 and accused of smoking cannabis and eating packets of cannabis in his car. The Scotland Yard press bureau was told of his arrest and details appeared in newspapers in

## Court bans harassment findings

By QUENTIN COWDRY  
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Greater Manchester Police Authority was banned by the High Court yesterday from disclosing details of the findings of an independent investigation into allegations that a student had been severely harassed by police.

Mr Justice Macpherson said the Police Complaints Authority, which supervised the enquiry, was entitled to insist that a letter it sent to the student, stating its conclusions, was confidential. The court had been told that the police watchdog's work could be undermined if its reports were published without complainants' consent.

The letter had been sent to Sarah Hollis, who was among demonstrators in 1985 when Sir Leon Brittan, then home secretary, visited Manchester university. A copy was mistakenly sent to councillors in Manchester.

Britain and abroad. In June 1989, however, the Crown offered no evidence when Mr Hope appeared at the Inner London Crown Court, and the judge said that he could leave "without any stain on his character".

In August he issued proceedings claiming damages, including aggravated and exemplary damages, for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution. The Metropolitan commissioner denied his claims. The action was settled yesterday without prejudice to the issue of liability.

Mr Englehart said that Mr Hope had maintained from the outset that he had never smoked cannabis or any other illegal substance, and would never do so. The allegations had caused him and his family particular hurt and embarrassment. He was saddened by the affair because he respected the police.

Afterwards, Mr Hope said he believed that his arrest had been racially motivated. He was "pleased and not pleased" with the settlement. "The money helps but it is not the main priority here. I like to think of the youngsters coming up in society — if it happened to Maurice Hope, how about them?"

Damages totalling £233,054 were awarded against the Metropolitan Police in the High Court last year, compared with £104,336 in 1988, not including out-of-court settlements.



Hope: believes arrest was racially motivated



Firemen searching the rubble early yesterday after an explosion in a derelict house in Bayswater, central London, killed one man, injured two others and wrecked ten cars. Andrew Camp, of Northwood, northwest London, was seriously injured and Michael

believe the blast was caused deliberately. The dead man, who was found by thermal imaging equipment, has not yet been identified. Andrew Camp, of Northwood, northwest London, was seriously injured and Michael

Fung, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, slightly hurt. They are thought to have been trapped in a car. Firemen believe squatters may have been living in the house. The blast also damaged a block of flats next door.

## BSkyB opts for Sky staff at top

By MELINDA WITSTOCK  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH SKY Broadcasting unveiled a new management team yesterday composed of just three people from BSB and 11 from Sky.

The merged group has chosen not to replace Ian Clubb, the BSB deputy chief executive who resigned as joint deputy managing director of BSkyB.

Sky's Gary Davey has been appointed the sole deputy managing director as well as director of programmes.

The only BSkyB senior managers that remain are Peter Clarke, as company secretary, Jennifer Haigh, as director of personnel, and Ellis Griffiths, as director of engineering.

The group has just received permission from the Independent Broadcasting Authority to broadcast a mixed Sky-BSB service on the BSB Marco Polo satellite for an indefinite period starting on December 3.

## Fishermen fear the hidden menace of 'submarine alley'

By KERRY GILL

THE huge dark shape of a submarine on the grey waters of the Firth of Clyde has been an awesome, if familiar, sight for decades. It is their menacing underwater presence, however, that is the constant fear of local fishermen.

The government yesterday admitted that a Royal Navy submarine was responsible for dragging a fishing boat to the seabed with the loss of four lives.

James Russell, skipper of the stricken fishing vessel Antares, spent much of his time trying to sort out the problem of submarines jostling for space with vulnerable fishing boats off the west coast of Scotland.

Mr Russell, in common with many other fishermen, had feared a final collision between a submarine and a boat. Like many others, he believed that submarines were responsible for other fishermen's deaths in the so-called "submarine alley", the waters

stretching from the southern Irish Sea to the northwest of Scotland.

In the early hours of Thursday the fishermen's fears were proved correct. The Antares, its gear snagged by HMS Trenchant, a hunter killer submarine based at Faslane, sank within seconds, drowning Mr Russell and his three crewmen.

Over the past ten years, there have been a number of incidents in which fishing vessels have sunk with loss of life. In many, submarines were suspected of being responsible. Not for nothing has Scotland's west coast been described as another "Bermuda triangle".

William Wareham, aged 54, a Campbeltown skipper and member of the Scottish Fishermen's Organisation, said yesterday: "We have been working under this threat for years. With so many boats fishing in the Clyde, it was bound to happen some time. We have been trying to tell the government that, but it has been ignored.

Lives are being lost. It is a tragedy that could be avoided. We have to have a government enquiry. So many boats have been lost without trace, and it will happen again."

With bigger and more powerful fishing vessels being built, fishing tackle is stronger. Snagged fishing wires no longer snap, and fishermen claim, this leads to boats being lost within seconds.

The Celtic League, based in the Isle of Man, has kept records of boats lost in mysterious circumstances, many of them suddenly disappearing in calm waters where submarines are known to operate. It has logged vessels lost in "submarine alley" leading to more than 50 fatalities.

In 1982, the trawler Shareiga was suddenly dragged backwards at speed for ten miles. She capsized, but her five crew were saved by other vessels. The Ministry of Defence paid out £100,000 for the loss of the Shareiga.

## Aids-like virus 'may cause arthritis'

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

AN Aids-like virus may be the cause of some types of rheumatoid arthritis and similar conditions thought to be caused by faults in the body's immune system.

Robert Garry, of Tulane university medical school, Louisiana, reports in *Science* the discovery of a retrovirus in patients with Sjögren's syndrome, in which the eyes and mouth become very dry. It is often found in conjunction with rheumatoid arthritis and lupus erythematosus, a disease of the connective tissue. His results suggest that this retrovirus may be the reason for all these conditions, believed to be caused by the body's immune system attacking its own tissues. The HIV virus also damages the immune system, and patients with the three conditions studied by Dr Garry often show positive when their blood is tested for Aids, though they are not infected.

He found particles similar to those of the HIV virus in lip tissues taken from six patients suffering from Sjögren's syndrome. He believes he has found a new retrovirus, a type of infective agent which copies itself by a process running in the reverse direction to normal viruses. The other two human retroviruses so far found are HIV and an agent causing a form of leukaemia. If Dr Garry can identify the retrovirus structure, work could begin on finding a vaccine to counter it.

• A baby's risk of contracting a hereditary cancer has for the first time been assessed while it was still in the womb. The test was negative and the mother continued with the pregnancy.

The test, by Joy Delahanty at the Galton laboratory of University College London, was made possible by the identification of the genes causing a form of colon cancer. People carrying these genes are virtually certain to develop a cancer that could kill them in middle age. The condition is known as familial polyposis. Carriers form hundreds or thousands of tiny polyps in the colon or rectum.

Most are benign, but it is virtually certain at least one will develop into a tumour by the age of 40. The father of the woman tested by Dr Delahanty had died of bowel cancer at the age of 38, and she had her colon removed in her late teens.

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Liberty for 1800  
Swedish mission  
Bahrain  
US forces  
TURKISH  
ON SPOT

Israel into  
Christians

Aids-like virus 'may cause arthritis'

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 24 1990

OVERSEAS NEWS 9

# Iraq shows its confidence by lifting curfew in Kuwait

From NICHOLAS BENTON IN BAGHDAD

THE Iraqi government has lifted the curfew in Kuwait amid increasing signs of confidence here that the anti-Iraq coalition has been weakened.

The resignation of Mrs Thatcher has contributed to a growing belief in Baghdad that its hostage strategy will prevail and will discourage military action by the West until climatic conditions become unsuitable next year.

The curfew was lifted yesterday for the first time since the invasion of Kuwait on August 2, according to the Iraqi news agency. The decision was taken, it said, "to confirm the return of normal life to the government".

Baghdad is convinced that the change of leadership in Britain will be fatal to President Bush's military option in the Gulf. "Mrs Thatcher's resignation is a terrible setback for Mr Bush," a senior Iraqi official said yesterday. "Without her support, he will find it very difficult to launch an aggression against Iraq."

Baghdad believes that it was Mrs Thatcher's intervention at her meeting with President Bush in Aspen, Colorado, just after the Iraqi invasion, that convinced the president he should use military force.

## US force runs low on spares

Washington - Pentagon planners are seriously concerned about the shortage of spare parts for American Gulf forces, particularly aircraft (Peter Stothard writes).

According to a briefing paper for Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, the US air force is on the way to becoming a "hollow force" because of the cannibalisation of spare parts to keep Operation Desert Shield airborne.

According to one analysis, 24 hours of maintenance is needed to keep an Apache helicopter active for one hour - and even then it is doubtful if its night-firing devices will work in air full of fine sand.

### Aquino refusal

Manila - President Aquino turned down a request by Yehia Fahd al-Suniti, a special envoy of Sheikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah, the emir of Kuwait, to send troops to the Gulf, a senior Philippines official said. But, although Mr Aquino refused military aid, he promised to send a medical team to the Gulf. (Reuters)

### Swedish mission

Stockholm - A former Swedish prime minister, Thorbjorn Falldin, said he would fly to Baghdad to try to win the release of Swedish hostages. Mr Falldin, who headed non-socialist administrations between 1976 and 1982, met Sten Andersson, the foreign minister, before making his announcement.

### Liberty for 180

Baghdad - About 180 Germans held by Iraq since the invasion of Kuwait will leave for home on Sunday or Monday, according to diplomatic sources here. Most of the Germans held as human shields on strategic sites had been brought to Baghdad.

## Israel intervenes in Christian dispute

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL said yesterday it would repair the leaky roof over Christ's reputed birthplace because feuding Christian groups cannot agree who is responsible for the upkeep.

Repairs at the Church of the Nativity in the occupied West Bank town of Bethlehem will begin in a few days and should be completed by Christmas, Shmuel Hamburger, a military government official, said.

"The roof is in such bad shape that the last time we had rain, two weeks ago, it was pouring inside the church," Mr Hamburger added. There were gaping holes in the wood-and-tar roof. Last Christmas buckets for rainwater were set out inside the basilica.

The dispute stems from rivalry between Christian groups over custody of the holy sites. Rights of worship and maintenance are spelled out in detail in the so-called Status Quo, a set of rules dating back to the 1850s. However, the roof of the Church of the Nativity is not mentioned in the Status Quo. In the past, the ruling authorities - from the Ottomans to

the British, the Jordanians and finally the Israelis - fixed the roof periodically to prevent squabbles.

But this year the Greek Orthodox Church insisted on fixing the roof, saying it traditionally cleaned the roof and therefore should be allowed to do the repairs. The Armenian and Roman Catholic churches protested, saying the roof should be fixed by all three groups or not at all.

The Israelis stepped in several months ago with an offer to fix the roof, but the Armenians and Roman Catholics asked that repairs be postponed.

The Greek Orthodox Church still appears insistent that it should have custody of the roof, but Mr Hamburger said Israel had a right to carry out the repairs.

The Church of the Nativity, which lies Bethlehem's Market Square, was built by Constantine in AD 330. Believed to be the oldest Christian church in continuous use, it was erected over a grotto believed to be the site where Christ was born.



Fire power down in a desert bunker. President Bush squats through the sights of a 50-calibre machine gun while bolstering the morale of US troops stationed in Saudi Arabia. Before flying on to Geneva for his controversial meeting with President Assad of Syria, the president flew from the desert to a red-carpet welcome in Cairo.

During talks with President Mubarak, he repeated the United States and Egypt's "common commitment of working closely together to ensure we succeed". The US and Egyptian relationship was "extremely close", he said, "and is a true force for peace in the region". President Bush in turn said that "the Iraqi invasion must be reversed and Kuwait must be liberated. No tactics will divert us from our objectives, no active defiance will weaken our resolve or shake our determination. To both of us it's a matter of principle and moral commitment" (Sarah Gauch writes).

During their meeting the two leaders discussed what security measures could be implemented, once Iraq had withdrawn, to protect the region against similar aggression and the potential use of weapons of mass destruction. Mr Mubarak mentioned his hope that at some point the Palestinian-Israeli situation would be addressed. Although Mr Bush expressed his wish to solve this long-

standing problem, he underlined that the Gulf confrontation and the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians were not connected.

Egypt has remained the United States' staunchest Arab ally in the Gulf. President Mubarak has led the Arab world in its condemnation of President Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait. He was the first Arab leader, along with King Hassan of Morocco, to send troops in defence of Saudi Arabia; there are 20,000 men there now and approximately 15,000 more are expected.

UN meeting, page 1

## Saddam's Maginot line 'can be broken'

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ALLIED commanders are confident they can breach the huge "Maginot line" of sand barriers, anti-tank ditches and minefields the Iraqis have built across southern Kuwait, after a study of the defences, senior British military sources said yesterday.

British engineers built a small-scale version of the "obstacle belt" at a secret location in this country and worked out how to overcome the defences. The Americans did the same. "We know the exact depth of the minefields," one source said.

The assessment played a part in the decision by the US and Britain to send more troops to Saudi Arabia. It was realised that more infantry would be needed to support the armour once the Iraqi defences had been breached.

One military source said: "With the right balance of infantry and armour, you can attack on a broad front. The more infantry you have to counter superior force levels, the fewer the casualties."

The increase in allied forces has meant a revision of casualty estimates to 10,000 deaths and 20,000 injured.



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# Najibullah vows to make any sacrifice for an Afghan peace



Najibullah: "contrary to some claims, I have a big heart"

PRESIDENT Najibullah of Afghanistan, who is in Geneva to woo the opponents of his besieged government in Kabul, said yesterday that he would agree to the setting up of a neutral transitional authority with wide executive powers to supervise free elections in the country to end eleven years of internal war.

In an interview, he said that there was no personal sacrifice he would not contemplate if it had a good chance of resolving the conflict peacefully. "Contrary to some people's claims, I have a big heart. Our opponents have a duty to try to discover for themselves," he said.

His unexpected visit to Europe comes in the wake of talks in Moscow last week between James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and Eduard Shevardnadze, his

Soviet counterpart, who are said to desire a negotiated end to the Afghan war. But Dr Najibullah was keen to play down the suggestion of a link between the two events.

"The policies of the Afghan government have, by necessity, to reflect the new age of co-operation between the major powers," he said. "But our present talks with prominent Afghans are the culmination of many years' efforts. Water does not immediately evaporate when you pour it over fire."

The Afghan president refused to disclose the identities of his negotiating partners, saying it was at their request. But he was

He was reluctant to describe the proposed transitional authority as a government. "Its name is not important. I would prefer to call it

The Afghan president, who is in Geneva to persuade his Mujahidin foes to join him in a transitional government before holding free elections, talks to Hazhir Teimourian

a transitional organ of power that would have direct control over all our armed forces as well as those of our opponents. We are willing to give over to it the control of key ministries, such as the defence and interior ministries. What I am proposing now is that all of us Afghans sit together round a table to determine the extent of that transitional organ's powers. You can call it what you like."

Dr Najibullah, it appeared, does not seriously believe that the more militant fundamentalists among the Pakistan-based Mujahidin

guerrillas, who have been engaged in clashes with their moderate allies, might agree to participate in his proposed transitional government, but thought the time might be ripe for the moderate parties in the guerrilla alliance to declare a formal break with the militants.

This interpretation was supported by Ahmad Gailani, leader of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, who is one of the partners Dr Najibullah is wooing. Mr Gailani, who is in London, said that Dr Najibullah hoped that the first step towards a reconcili-

ation would be taken by Zahir Shah, the former king, who has lived in exile in Rome since his overthrow in a coup in 1973. "Najib hopes that the king might place himself at the head of a transitional government in Kabul and be joined by some of us among the Mujahidin."

Mr Gailani denied recent reports that he had had a meeting with Dr Najibullah during the president's current European visit. Mr Gailani said he, too, preferred a peaceful end to the conflict. Asked whether he could give a guarantee that a transitional government in Kabul would not be overrun by the extremists among the Mujahidin, Mr Gailani said that he could not do so. He believed, however, that the danger of the extremists had been exaggerated. "You would find that

their representatives in any transitional or permanent government would be small, and they would not be allowed to remain as independent militias. I can give the guarantee that there will be no revenge killings. Only criminals will be punished, whether from the ranks of the government or from among the Mujahidin."

In this respect, he and Dr Najibullah appeared to be in agreement. "The extremists would quickly isolate themselves from our people," said the Afghan president. "All we are asking is that their arms supplies from such countries as Pakistan be cut off." In return for an end to Pakistani, American and Saudi Arabian arms supplies to the Mujahidin, Dr Najibullah would agree to a halt in the supply of Soviet weapons to his troops.

## Opinion swings Walesa's way as Poland goes to the polls

From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

LECH Walesa, the Solidarity leader, and Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Poland's prime minister, emerged yesterday as clear favourites in tomorrow's presidential election. Support for the other strong candidate, Stanislaw Tyminski, the Polish-Canadian businessman, seemed to be dwindling.

The last opinion poll before the election gives Mr Walesa 38 per cent of the vote, Mr Mazowiecki 23 per cent and Mr Tyminski 17 per cent. Wladyslaw Cimosiewicz, the former communist candidate, lags behind with just 6 per cent. Roman Bartoszczak, the Peasant party's leader, has 5 per cent, and Leszek Moczulski, head of the ultra-nationalist Confederation for an Independent Poland, 2 per cent. The support for Mr Tyminski, is expected to decline even more, mainly to the benefit of Mr Walesa. However, there are unknown factors. At least 9 per cent of respondents in various polls declared themselves undecided, and a substantial number of Poles abroad are voting.

All but the most optimistic arithmetic suggests that Mr Walesa will fall short of the 50 per cent he needs to win in the first round. The second round, a run-off

between the two leading candidates, will be held a fortnight later.

Campaigning was forbidden from noon yesterday, but politicians continued to give off-the-record briefings for favoured journalists, thus feeding the rumour mill. Public demonstrations and conferences are also banned until the polls close at 8pm tomorrow.

The election has been correctly described as the first Western-style contest in the post-communist era, a battle of personalities and style rather than the wholesale rejection of totalitarian rule. But there is a crucial difference. In more established democracies, voters choose a leader with clearly defined responsibilities and constitutionally limited powers.

In Poland, the powers of the presidency were tailored for President Jaruzelski at a time when it seemed important to reassure Moscow of Warsaw's ultimate loyalty to the Soviet alliance.

Those times have passed, but the powers remain. The president can declare martial law or a state of emergency. He nominates the prime minister and formally proposes his recall. He appoints the commander-in-chief and is ex officio supreme commander of the armed forces. He can issue decrees, although whether Mr Walesa could rule in this way, as he has threatened, is unclear. He also guides foreign policy.

These powers derive from amendments to the 1952 constitution, but there are constraints too. For example, parliament can try to remove him if he proves to be mentally unstable. But the balance between the president and parliament can be easily swung in the president's favour. General Jaruzelski, conscious of his very tentative position, rarely made use of the powers and vetoed only one piece of legislation.

The fear of Polish parliamentarians is that Mr Walesa would sap the country's fledgeling parliamentary democracy by making frequent use of these powers. The Polish parliament is already something of a lame duck, since new elections have been set for next spring. An assertive president could well fill the vacuum.

Mr Walesa, in his election programme, promises that communists will be weeded out of the state administration and that members of past communist governments could face trial. This is disquieting especially for those who work in the foreign ministry or the armed forces, which fall under the presidential domain.

Constitutional experts have been working on a new constitution shaping an entirely different kind of presidency which should be ready by next May 3. Poles voting on Sunday thus have little idea of the powers that their newly elected president will enjoy after that date. The voting is thus, in many ways, a leap in the dark.

Poles in exile, page 18



Victory salute: two boys show their allegiance to Lech Walesa as they collect a poster from his campaign headquarters in Warsaw on the eve of Poland's presidential election. Support for the Solidarity leader is increasing according to opinion polls

## Bishops denounce sins of Madrid

From HARRY DEBELIUS IN MADRID

CHURCH-state relations in Spain appeared yesterday to be at their lowest ebb since the Socialists came to power nearly nine years ago, after bishops denounced widespread "moral degradation" and corruption and put much of the blame on the government.

In a document which took nearly two years to prepare, the Roman Catholic Episcopal Council stepped into the political arena, condemning political turpitude, influence-peddling, "grave and scandalous" corruption, misuse of public funds, discrimination on ideological grounds, nepotism, the re-zoning of lands "to carry out abusive and fraudulent deals", speculation in the housing market and a long list of other sins.

It was the strongest call to order issued by the hierarchy in nearly a decade and a half of democracy, and it came after a warning from the pulpit earlier in the week by Cardinal Angel Sisquela, the council president. A senior administration official called it a direct attack on the government.

The bishops accused authorities of "manipulating the truth by means of official ideological propaganda and information of an anti-religious nature, silencing or ridiculing Catholic viewpoints".

Referring to the current "sexual disorder", presumably fomented by such actions as the government's big advertising campaign to promote the use of contraceptives, the churchmen lamented disturbing signs of "the frivolous trivialisation of human sexuality", such as marital infidelity and the

failure of public figures to set an example. One such figure who came to mind immediately among readers of the document was Alfonso Guerra, the deputy prime minister, who is frequently accompanied at public functions by an unmarried woman friend rather than by his wife. The hierarchy scored the "extension of extra-marital relations, the generalisation of pre-marital relations and the demand for the legitimisation of homosexual relations".

Claiming that "Spain has become an immense casino", the bishops condemned the materialist culture, as evidenced by the "disproportionate exaltation of money" and of "men and women whose only claim to fame seems to be their meteoric success in the realm of wealth and luxury".

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The declaration sets out a framework for political, economic, scientific and cultural cooperation. It outlines common goals, such as the support of democracy and human rights, the promotion of market principles, support for Eastern Europe and the rejection of protectionism.

The document also promises regular dialogue on all areas of trade, but makes no reference to the current negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and

Trade. In addition, it binds both sides to co-operate in fighting terrorism, drug smuggling and international crime, protecting the environment and preventing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and missile technology.

The declarations come in response to last year's call by James Baker, the American Secretary of State, for closer institutional co-operation between the United States and the community. Mr Baker and M Delors both wanted EC-US relations put on a treaty footing, with the establishment of twice-yearly summits and joint meetings between the European Commission and delegations of American cabinet members. This has now been watered down to a simple declaration of principles instead of a full treaty for resolving disputes.

The declaration with Canada has almost identical wording and also provides for regular consultations. Both, however, come at a time of deep disagreement with the community over the Gatt trade talks, and especially the EC's position on agriculture.

The final round of ministerial talks among the 107 participating nations is to begin here on Monday week. But six Latin American countries have threatened to walk out of the talks and Arthur Dunkel, the secretary-general of Gatt, has given a warning that the whole negotiating round may now end in deadlock.

Gatt unresolved, page 35

## EC strengthens links with US and Canada

From MICHAEL BINION IN BRUSSELS

SETTING aside recent arguments over trade, the European Community yesterday released the text of two wide-ranging declarations putting their relations with the United States and Canada for the first time on a quasi-treaty footing. The documents provide for regular summit meetings and top-level ministerial consultations.

Giulio Andreotti, the Italian prime minister and current president of the European Council, and Brian Mulroney, the Canadian prime minister, signed the EC-United States statement yesterday. The EC-United States statement has not yet been formally signed by either side.

The signing ceremony was to have been in Washington two weeks ago during the talks between President Bush and Senator Andreotti and Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission. But arguments over the wording of their security relations and American insistence on inserting a clause on the current world trade talks held up signature.

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Gatt unresolved, page 35

## China aims to tighten its grip on Hong Kong

Peking — In a move apparently designed to increase central control over Hong Kong, China has replaced its top official responsible for the British colony.

A spokesman for the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office said yesterday that Li Ping, the deputy director since 1987, would take over the directorship from Ji Pengfei, who had headed the office for the past eight years.

Mr Ji, a former foreign minister with close ties to China's top leaders, exercised a degree of independence in formulating policy for Hong Kong. The Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office is under the state council, China's cabinet, and is the highest government organ dealing with the two territories, which are to return to Chinese rule by the end of the century.

Since the June 1989 suppression of the pro-democracy movement in Peking that was popularly supported in Hong Kong, China has sought to tighten control over the colony.

The spokesman said Mr Ji and another deputy, Li Hou, submitted resignations in April, citing old age. Mr Ji is 81 years old. Mr Li, however, is 67 — still considered young in the Chinese leadership.

### MPs congratulate Indian diplomat

A motion congratulating Sri Kuldip Nayar, the outgoing High Commissioner of India and a former *Times* correspondent in Delhi, has been passed in the House of Commons.

The high commissioner, who hosted a farewell dinner two days ago, was particularly congratulated for his initiatives in reducing visa fees for people visiting India from Britain and for forging bonds of friendship with Indian communities in Britain.

Mr Nayar, who had been jailed during the Indira Gandhi emergency, was appointed high commissioner by the previous Indian government earlier this year. His successor has yet to be named.

### Queen visits RAF

Weeze, Germany — The Queen made a private visit to staff and their families at the RAF base of Laarbruch, and lunched in the mess. In six previous visits to Germany, the Queen had not visited the RAF. Hours before the BA-146 of the Queen's Flight taxied to a standstill, three Tornados from XV Squadron flew off to join the British forces in the Gulf. Three more leave today and by Christmas 200 personnel from Laarbruch will be in Saudi Arabia.

### Zambian reform

Lusaka — Zambian MPs will debate a constitutional reform bill next week to legalise opposition parties, official newspapers quoted Malimba Masesha, the prime minister, as saying. In September, President Kaunda bowed to pressure for an end to one-party rule and promised multi-party elections next year. (Reuters)

### Cash for victims

Prague — Czechoslovakia has agreed to pay to victims of Stalinist purges in the decades after Communist rule began in 1948. Because the government is strapped for cash, most of the victims' compensation will come as state certificates in privatised state companies. Political prisoners from the 1950s will be paid an immediate sum of 10,000 crowns (£167); 800,000 Czechoslovakians are eligible for compensation.

### Ottawa brawl

Ottawa — The Canadian Senate was adjourned in turmoil after shouting and verbal abuse between Conservative and opposition Liberal members. In an argument over the government's proposed goods-and-services tax, enraged Liberals encircled the Speaker, Guy Charbonneau, after he had cut off an independent senator who wanted to introduce an amendment. One Liberal denounced Mr Charbonneau as "a bloody disgrace".

PARIS NOTEBOOK by Philip Jacobson

## Who wears the trousers still a puzzle

It is sometimes said that you can tell winter has come in Paris when the transvestites in the Bois de Boulogne don fur coats over their exotic underwear. But, as early-morning joggers can confirm, the first sharp frosts have not noticeably reduced demand for a priming firm.

More intriguing, there was also a "male potato huckster" who was allowed to go about in female costume because of an infirmity, not further described, "which renders it impossible for him to dress as a man".

One such swoop is said to have produced a memorable bulletin announcing the arrest of half a dozen female prostitutes, half a dozen males and several of "indeterminate status".

Quite by chance, a cutting from a Parisian newspaper of November 1890 came to light the other day which reported a campaign by the Society for the Emancipation of Women to "introduce a radical change in feminine dress". It seems French women were formally prohibited from wearing male clothes "ex-

sensitive subject is concerned, overall immigration increased by about 20 per cent last year. A sizeable chunk of that was accounted for by seasonal workers, but there was also a remarkable 80 per cent leap in foreigners seeking asylum.

More than 61,000 applications were submitted and current figures suggest that the numbers are still growing. Under this strain France's long and honourable tradition of sheltering victims of political oppression is beginning to crack.

According to the authorities, four of every five requests for asylum are

China aims  
to tighten  
its grip on  
Hong Kong

congratulations

visits

refugee

visits



**"When making a long journey by road, the one thing I always like to have with me is a car."**

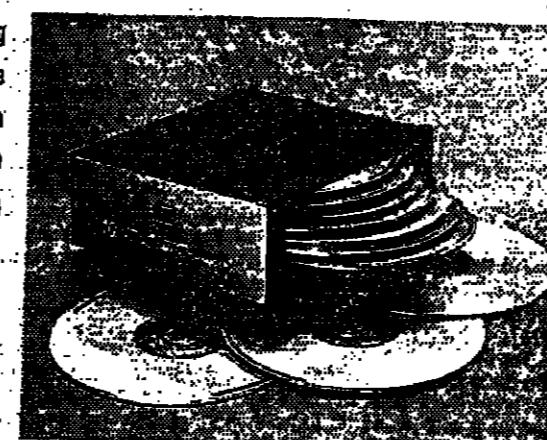
(Rory McGrath, owner of the fiendishly sophisticated Sony in-car 'Disc Jockey' 719.)

"I'm not very technically minded but one thing I do know is that if you're bombing up the M1, having a car does save wear and tear on the seat of your trousers. I'm not very good at makes of cars, but I know that mine is one of the 'blue ones'."

I'm one of those people who just use a car for getting from A to B; which is a bit of a shame, actually, because most of my friends live at D, and I work in South Q. However, I do appreciate a bit of in-car entertainment. When I'm driving I love

listening to Suzanne Vega, but it's becoming increasingly difficult for me to persuade her to come with me, especially if it's down to the Arsenal on a Saturday afternoon. So recently I've had fitted an amazing new entertainment system - the Sony 'Disc Jockey'.

This brilliant piece of equipment comprises a stereo radio cassette and a CD player, which is safely and discreetly tucked away in the boot. The radio gives you 24 preset stations with, of course, FM, MW



**SONY**

WHY COMPROMISE?

and LW (for people who don't know what those letters stand for, it means you can listen to Freddie Mercury, Marti Webb and Larry Williams... whose song 'Shoo do fu fu ooh' got to number 38 in November 1977).

The CD player takes 10 discs at a time, giving you up to 12 hours of continuous music, which is brilliant if you're on a 12 hour journey, like the one from Junction 15 on the M25 to Junction 16 on the M26. But, best of all, it has a 'shuffle-play' feature which randomly plays tracks from all the discs.

The only thing I'm not certain about is why it's called the DISC-JOCKEY ... I suppose if you press the right buttons it can get past the door at 'Stringfellow's', appear on 'Blankety Blank' and open supermarkets. I could be wrong, I'm not technically minded you see. I'll ask Suzanne Vega when she's next in the car .."

# Death throes of an era

Jonathan Clark

**S**he fought to the end. Indeed, she was never defeated. Her final years were the most heroic, a splendid rear-guard action as the sands ran out. Conscious of this autumnal air, she clutched at youth, and revitalised her image with a brave show. She was still at her best with the young, still able to inspire new entrants to politics. Finally, it was travel that undid her. Away from her base, on progresses around the houses of her nobility, the climate accomplished what her opponents never could. In March 1603 she was taken ill; refusing to go to bed, she got steadily worse, propped up on cushions at the centre of a ring of expectant courtiers. Who would be her successor? Who would inherit the world after the death of Elizabeth?

The problem of the succession was almost as old as her reign. She had, to begin with, negotiated with European princely suitors — Eric of Sweden, Adolphus of Holstein, the Duc d'Alencon. But she procrastinated, and, finally, said no, no, and no. Marriage with an Englishman was almost possible, but it never happened. By the year of the Armada, she was too old. Her heirs were to be her protégés.

Even these proved weaker than their mistress. Leicester, her old suitor and intimate friend, died in 1588. Elizabeth's lonely isolation now began in earnest. She faced it with a haughty thought that became increasingly necessary. In the next decade even her naval heroes proved mortal: Frobisher died in 1594, Hawkins in 1595, Drake in 1596. The swashbuckling ruthlessness of her early years crumbled in the face of administrative and tactical incompetence.

The glory of her reign began to fade after the Armada victory. The international position she had carved out for herself as the champion of European protestantism could not be sustained. Her early fame was built on her triumph over continental absolutism in the person of Philip II of Spain; the substantial success of Counter-Reformation collectivism, and the conversion of Henri IV of France to Rome, left England in a hopeless minority.

Even the Armada, a resounding repulse of unprovoked Latin aggression, was only narrowly survived: cuts had left the navy perilously over-stretched, and only the private-enterprise contribution of the merchants who had prospered during her reign saved the day. It was the Queen who delayed preparations, refusing to believe mounting evidence of an impending invasion; her famous Tilbury speech fired the national imagination, but she was lucky that she was still there to make it.

When she went to St Paul's for the service of thanksgiving, she reminded the nation of how much she bullied her bishops, but how much her authority had a moral basis, too. This worked in England; but Catholic Ireland was an open

wound and her stubborn insistence on her territorial claim led directly to Tyrone's rebellion in 1593 and a decade of troubles for which no Englishman had an answer.

In the 1590s, the shadows began to lengthen. Her loved and trusted servant Burghley died in 1598, nursed on his deathbed by his grieving Queen. A whole generation of courtiers on whom she had depended had now gone. Unlike them, the new generation, such as Essex and Raleigh, were ambitious men locked in combat for supremacy at court.

The fumbling and erratic Essex, who prided himself on his military skills, was the main threat. In 1593, he began to make a special study of European affairs, and to try to make himself indispensable. After the ill-success of his Cadiz and Island voyages, the atmosphere at court reached breaking point, conspired, the Queen boxed his ear. Essex's hand reached for his sword but, just in time, he checked himself. Then, frustrated by the failure of his government in Ireland against Tyrone, disgraced and under house arrest, Essex's patience broke. Provoked to hopeless rebellion, his execution was inevitable.

Elizabeth was desperately dependent on her courtiers, but lost too many of them for it to be mere chance. People increasingly objected to her style. No Englishwoman had ever been so imperious, so politically astute. Courageous, tireless and resolute, she had little sympathy for weakness. Her critics thought her vulgar, unfeminine, vindictive and imperious. Most of those whom she bossed responded with unwavering devotion.

Yet she was no friend of parliaments to her, they existed chiefly to vote supplies and were otherwise troublesome, trespassing on her prerogative. In 1601 she had to promise to reconsider the most unpopular of fund-raising devices, the granting of monopolies to private individuals. Yet, in her way, she was a great parliamentarian: with her speeches from the throne, she could make both Houses eat from her hand, but they were not to choose her advisers.

She could never bring herself to name a successor. Who, after all, could ever equal her achievement? To name a name would be almost to dispense herself, so the courtiers crowded round her frail figure as she drifted in and out of consciousness. Who was it to be? They suggested candidates; she said nothing. Finally, a movement. Desperate, her council interpreted it as a gesture of assent to James VI of Scotland. He was the man to unite the nation! In retrospect, James was the obvious choice. And yet, in his hands, and those of his son, Charles I, Elizabeth's achievement slowly disintegrated.

The author is a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

I interviewed on the telephone by a Canadian radio station the other day, I heard my interlocutor in Toronto say "Hazel Tyne". What were Hazel Tyne's prospects in the Tory leadership race?

How best to respond? In a micro-second, I reviewed four possible reactions. One was to ignore his error and include "Heseltine", correctly pronounced, in my own reply.

Fair enough. But I have done some radio and television presenting myself, and half of me sees things from the presenter's viewpoint, aware that he has an editor to please, and children to feed. Were I to start pronouncing words in a wholly different way, without explanation, the exchange would be ragged, and listeners distracted and bemused.

Should I then explain? Halt the flow of argument for a short lesson in English surnames aimed at correcting my interviewer and educating his public? That struck me as a pedantic use of expensive airtime. Who in Canada cares? It might restore rationality to the discourse but would embarrass my host and bore his listeners.

The third possibility was to avoid the use of Mr Heseltine's name altogether. This, I understand, is the rule applied in Downing Street. However, it might seem eccentric over the airwaves to pick my way through a conversation about the man without ever mentioning his surname. To have said "Mike" or even "Michael" would have implied an unprofessional familiarity.

You realise, then, the only course left to me? I too pronounced it "Hazel Tyne" — indeed, found myself doing so almost before I knew it and having done it once, felt absolutely obliged to carry on.

So now, at least one respected Canadian radio anchorman and a million or so listeners have had this pronunciation confirmed by a real-life columnist on the London *Times*. What if Mr H now wins and the station rings me again? I have already decided, I shall stick with Hazel. It is too late to change.

Apparently Hazel Tyne has

been the received pronunciation in America from the start. In my view Mr H should switch to himself, for there are more than 200 million people over there and they are a headstrong bunch — as those who have lost the battle to persuade our American cousins that Edinburgh is not in England know only too well.

The same advice should be proffered to our new health secretary, William Waldegrave, now it is clear that he is going to be famous. For years poor William has been trying to make us say "Wargrave" or "Wallgrave", but it's no good. People these days can read, and if you start trying to deny the existence of consonants that are plain for all to see, you will be regarded as secretive.

Or odd. For the whole of his political life Gerald Kaufman has been fighting a bizarre and losing battle for the right to be called Kornman. Everybody has seen *Auf Wiedersehen Pet* on TV and we are simply not going to say "off". Any more than we will agree to call Mrs Thatcher's private secretary (Charles Powell) "Pole", as he requires.

My name's favourite joke was about the dustman calling on Mrs Jones, just after she had won the pools. "It's now 'Phones", she said to them. "Well, we're the b'boys and we've come for the d'hist", they replied.

As for Douglas Hurd, should he win, he will (I am sure) be too much of a gentleman to correct those Frenchmen who see the choice as between the cockney "er" and that uniquely revolting pronunciation of the "u" vowel that disqualifies French from consideration as a serious language. For his part, John Major will console himself that Spaniards will hesitate between Don Juan Major (bigger) and Major (better).

One should bow to the linguistic majority. All my life I have answered without demur, in person or in correspondence, to "Parish", "Parish", "Parry", "Paris" and "Harish"; my father spelt my Christian name wrong, and many believe me to be called Malcom.

Who cares? I always wanted to be called Leo.

Classlessness coupled with tough economic policies and social compassion: the Chancellor tells Robin Oakley why he thinks he should be the Conservatives' new leader

# The ball runs Major's way

**C**lass is, or was, normally the preoccupation of Labour politicians. But John Major is changing all that. He is building his bid for the Tory leadership on the promise to turn Britain into a classless society of high social mobility.

The promise neatly dovetails the Thatcherite themes of choice and competition with the suggestion of a gentler, kinder conservatism. It also utilises to the best purpose his own humble background as the son of an actor and trapeze artist who left school at 16.

By exploiting the theme of

classlessness he emphasises the contrast, that he never openly uses, between himself and the public-school candidates, Douglas Hurd, the old Etonian, and Michael Heseltine, who went to Shrewsbury. But why should the party choose him rather than the more experienced Douglas Hurd (with whom he says he will continue to work closely whatever the result)?

He says Mr Hurd is a very good friend, and refused to be drawn into criticising his policies. Indeed he feels "great affection" for him. "If Douglas Hurd becomes prime minister he will have my full support. We will work closely together as we have in the past."

"But the Tory party believes in choice. All of us, in our shades of policy, reflect our individual backgrounds, instincts and experiences. Douglas's instincts may be a shade different to mine. On that basis, our colleagues will choose which of us will make the best decisions for the rest of the 1990s and to build for the year 2000 and beyond." (By that time, of course, Mr Hurd will be 70, but Mr Major does not press the point.)

There is, of course, another

contender, from outside the cabinet. Would Mr Major serve in a Heseltine cabinet? "I don't know if Michael would invite me." He professes no antipathy to the MP for Henley, but says he would not make any assumptions about that possibility. "If and when I am invited I will consider it."

He denies that he and Mr Hurd are "fighting Michael". Perhaps disingenuously, he restates the fact they are contesting the leadership of the Conservative party. There is no question of the cabinet ganging up to stop Mr Heseltine. Indeed, he says, if his cabinet colleagues had felt vulnerable in that way they would have agreed on a single candidate.

He has been visibly toughening week by week as Chancellor. Now there is a touch more watchfulness behind that ease of manner. The sentences are disciplined, cut off short before they can wander into uncertainty or give hostages to fortune.

He says that the battleground of the next election will be prices, pensions, social security, mortgages and the economy. In all of that I have had much experience,

he says. "I believe passionately that where we have public services

there is no excuse for a second-rate service because it happens to be in the public sector." He makes

those need to be "effective and efficient".

"The magic circle is dead. It

doesn't matter whether it is the old-style magic circle or the cabinet. Backbenchers in the House of Commons will decide who is the next prime minister. I have not entered the race as a candidate to stop anybody."

**N**or does Mr Major like suggestions that he is the candidate of the right. "I believe in a very broad church Conservatism," he says. "There has never been a politician who can be truly docketed as right, left or centre. If people come to you bearing a package labelled in that way, treat it carefully."

Yet he has already been anointed by Norman Tebbit as the continuing torchbearer of Thatcherism. It is a role he accepts to the extent that he wishes to build on past policies, which, he says, have offered a degree of opportunity, choice and social mobility nobody would have believed possible ten years ago. "If the Conservative party does not stand for extending that further in the next ten years, then there's no point in going on."

But if he is the candidate of continuity rather than change, continuity must not imply standing still. "I'm in the business of further change," he insists, citing further privatisation as an example. This he would approve not for ideological reasons alone, but because by shrinking the public sector, privatisation makes more money available for those services that must remain public. And

plain that he is prepared to see an occasional rise in spending as a proportion of GDP in order to sustain the efficiency of such services.

To bring about the social

continuity he seeks, Mr Major

talks of enhancing the status of the teaching profession, and he

believes that people use their own

money better than the state does. But, he says, reducing taxation must be consistent with the provision of public services at the necessary level. There is no

deadline, he points out, for the

Tories commitment to bring the

standard rate down to 20 in the

pound, but the commitment will

remain. What is clear, however, is that he believes the changes on the top rates of taxation have gone as far as they are likely to go for some considerable time.

I asked him if he nurtures the idea of phasing out tax relief on

mortgages. He edged away from any budgetary commitments, but agreed that he would not be in the business of reducing mortgage tax relief in the next budget or the one after, which should see us through to an election.

Whoever wins the Tory leadership, it is clear that there will be changes to the community charge. Mr Major is quite happy to enter the bidding, saying that there would have been change in any event, without the Heseltine challenge. The mood in the constituencies and among MPs has brought "an irresistible momentum for further changes". Mr

Major is a cautious man, not as yet prepared to spell out what a Conservative manifesto might contain if he were the party's leader. I asked him finally if there was something above the ordinary political sphere that helped to condition his approach, some text in his mind like the prayer from St Francis of Assisi that Mrs Thatcher brought to Downing Street when she became prime minister. The response from a severely practical man was that if he were to accede to the top job, he might find a text. But, for the moment, "I prefer the hard substance of policy."

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1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## THE SWORD IN THE STONE

"Whoso pulleth out this sword of this stone and anvil is rightwise King born of all England." In the manner of Arthurian legend, the three contenders for the Tory leadership must prove themselves worthy of the Thatcherite succession. The Tory party in the country, most of it enraged at the manner of Mrs Thatcher's ejection, now demands a leader to carry on the spirit she demonstrated so brilliantly in Thursday's censure debate. The tests are stiff. They differ for each candidate, and none has yet shown he can easily pass.

Michael Heseltine is still favourite. The polls indicate that he would be the most likely to win an early general election and his backers laud his strong and dignified campaigning style. He has a maiden-in-distress appeal. But he is handicapped by being counted, with Nigel Lawson and Sir Geoffrey Howe, among the reptiles, and reptiles rarely take the crown. Although the true culprits were the cabinet faint-hearts, Mr Heseltine can never present himself as the candidate of unity. Almost to a man, the cabinet colleagues would poison his wine. He must thus pass the party unity test.

He must pass two more tests. He must convince his colleagues of his temperamental stability under pressure. He must also establish his credentials as able to build on the foundation of Thatcherism, rather than offer an alternative, harking back to the 1970s. He has made mistakes in his campaign. His poll tax reform implies that the tax can be related more closely to ability to pay and that some of education could be switched to central government without raising income tax.

Mr Heseltine's desire for a super-ministry of trade and industry needs more definition, as do his monetary and trade policies. His case for government intervention was unfairly dismissed as crypto-socialist by Mrs Thatcher last week. But it struck a dull chord in those for whom such ideas are neo-Heathite. Mr Heseltine's enthusiasm for European co-operation is regarded by his critics as craven submission to every lunacy out of Brussels. He needs to rebut these charges. Hard tests indeed.

Candidate number two, Douglas Hurd, has to his credit solid achievement in the Home Office and Foreign Office, where he was an effective leader and communicator, and a skilled operator of the Whitehall machine. But his tests are also tough. He is the oldest candidate, at 60, and must convey energy and innovative zeal to supplement his obvious maturity of judgment. Although only three years his senior, he lacks the vigour of Mr Heseltine. Ideologically, he is detached from the Thatcher legacy, perhaps an asset one day but a liability in her afterglow. Mr Hurd seems

to hark back, less to the days of Edward Heath (whose private secretary he was) than to Butler or Macmillan. "We have to be more persuasive and less assertive," he declared yesterday. Courtesy, Mr Hurd's watchword, behoves courtiers better than kings.

Foreign affairs is Mr Hurd's strong suit. But here the test is to show that he is not the creature of the Foreign Office, which dragged him mercilessly through a recent Israeli fiasco, that he is "his own man" as Mrs Thatcher was most emphatically her own woman. If he is not his own man in foreign affairs, what is he likely to be when he must play his weakest suit, taking on tax reform or interest rate policy against the Treasury or monetary union against the Euro-federalists? These are tough challenges.

Candidate number three, and strengthening by the day, is John Major. He is blessed with anonymity, a kindly manner and almost no record to which exception might be taken. But he has the hardest test of all: to find a political personality of any sort. He was at the Treasury when monetary targets were abandoned in the latter half of the 1980s and when economic sovereignty was sacrificed at the altar of inflation. Mr Major was of the team which produced the Lawson boom. He has regretted that, but he must tell the nation what he means by regret. What did he learn?

He must do more. Mr Major is the youngest and least experienced of the candidates. He has not known the heat of crisis. Mr Major was declared "all at sea" in his brief time at the Foreign Office, before scuttling back to the safe embrace of his Treasury nannies. A competent Chancellor is one thing. A prime minister must be wholly different. Could he stand the strain? That is the question even those close to him still ask.

Mr Major's great test is thus to show he can assert himself over, not just among, his colleagues — assert himself not merely as a chief secretary assert himself, but as leader of a stunned nation. He has to show he can do this where the more experienced Mr Heseltine and Mr Hurd could not. He has made a virtue of being politically unspecific. He appears to have no political creed. He has gained the endorsement of the party right, yet appears liberal on social policy, law and order and even public spending. Who is he? And if he is worthy of Downing Street, why does he want it now? This is surely the hardest test of all.

So the knights go out. None has so far shown he can take up the challenge of Mrs Thatcher's uncompleted revolution. The sword will glow in the granite for four, perhaps six, days only. Who shall show himself worthy of Excalibur?

## THE POLL TAX INCUBUS

She chained it to their ankles and made them drag it round the hustings. She swore she would never rid them of it. She cared not what it did to her opinion poll ratings. Now it has come to haunt the three candidates for the Tory leadership. The poll tax was the most foolish measure Margaret Thatcher introduced. Costly to collect, easy to evade and unfair in its incidence, virtually nobody with experience of local government money saw it as other than the foible of an over-confident centralist.

Now that Mrs Thatcher has gone, the moment is propitious for demolition. Not surprisingly, each of the candidates has swiftly promised a review, with Michael Heseltine taking the lead as a long-standing critic of the tax. He has squandered that lead by failing to grasp the essence of what the government must now do. Mr Heseltine, like Messrs Hurd and Major, merely promised yet another review of the tax, waiving about "ability to pay".

There have been three substantive reviews of this tax already. The first came at the time of the original bill and concluded that the tax would be so regressive that a complex system of safety nets, rebates and transitional reliefs would have to be included. The second came last year, when Conservative pressure had reached such a pitch that the environment secretary, Chris Patten, himself unhappy about the tax, agreed to look yet again at the rebates and reliefs. He also agreed to reduce the size of the tax, by throwing £3 billion at local authorities. Both these reviews reinforced the widespread opinion of officials and ministers in Whitehall that the tax was bad and increasingly unworkable. A huge logjam of enforcement cases now confronts the overburdened courts.

The third review was conducted by the Labour party earlier this year, goaded into

proposing its "alternative" both to the poll tax and to the rating system. Labour discovered what any philosopher could have told it, that only death and taxes are certain. Just as Mrs Thatcher's vow to "abolish the rates" was politically naive, so any search for a pain-free alternative was a will-o'-the-wisp. The best approach is simply to fix on the cheapest, fairest and most certain tax. There is no problem here, since such a tax exists in every democratic country in the world. It is based on property. In Britain until last April, it was called the rates.

Labour has courageously come to this conclusion. The country now waits to see which candidate for the Tory leadership will have the courage to do the same. Local taxation, an important constitutional mechanism for local democratic accountability, could then be removed from party conflict. The rates could be restored on existing valuations (still used for water rate purposes). Strictly local distortions in values could be met by local revaluation, as before. Regional inequalities could be met, again as before, through the government block grant system.

Business rates, where there was a case for revaluation, should revert to local assessment. This might be tough for businesses in left-wing areas — but that is what accountability means. Rate payment could also be made compulsory for every householder, including those paying council or private rents, to achieve the individual accountability theoretically sought under poll tax but eroded in practice through a welter of reliefs. Any further reform could be left to a cross-party committee of enquiry.

What would be impressive would be for all three candidates to promise to lunge the boil. The whole ghastly chapter could then end.

## AND ALL THAT

This is the diamond jubilee of 1066 and All That. How better to celebrate than to Sellar and Yeatman masterpiece than to bring it bang up to date...?

In 1979 a housewife named Mrs Thatcher found herself in Downing Street and thus began the Age of Thatcherism. She followed an utterly petty officer called Callaghan, unmemorable except for his winters of discontent. Mrs Thatcher was memorable for being a Woman. She disliked socialists, foreigners, the Bishop of Durham, other women and Ted Heath, a failed band leader.

Mrs Thatcher wanted to Privatise everything including her ministers and her electricity (thus earning her the Cossack title of Iron Lady). Her biggest ally was a South American general called Gouty Ayr who invaded the Falkland Islands. The Navy sent a task force commanded by Mrs Thatcher's son, Prince Andrew, to find out where they were. This led to a hit song "Don't frighten me Argentina", the downfall of Ayr and Mrs Thatcher's recognition as a Great War Leader.

Mrs Thatcher now became famous for her enemies. One of them, Arthur Koehl, not to be confused with another, Helmut Koel, was wildly in favour of a three-day week, sometimes called a no-day week, for miners. Mrs Thatcher completely defeated him at the Battle of Orgreave by sending a little old man called MacGregor to speak to them in a completely foreign language. When he offered

them a Brass Band they immediately returned to work. When they got there, Mr MacGregor had closed all the mines. This was accepted as a Good Compromise and showed that Mrs Thatcher was a Great Peacetime Leader.

Mrs Thatcher's greatest problem was Europe. Whenever she went to Europe to fight Helmut Koel, she lost another minister in the Channel, including Michael Brilliantine, the Lion of Britain, Sir Geoffrey Who and Major Lawson. They all disappeared utterly, most of them on Agatha Christie's birthday. This was considered carefree and suspicious.

She now called herself "we" and even Queen. When her courtiers told her she was in danger of becoming a totally Bad Thing she said she would prove her popularity by deliberately doing The Most Horrible Thing in British History. This was the poll tax.

Oppression has just come to the end of a three-year project to promote family participation in child protection work. It has revealed that fewer than 10 per cent of local authority areas in England and Wales have proper procedures to encourage and enable parents to participate in crucial planning and decision-making meetings about their children.

It is small wonder that the exclusion of parents from child protection conferences features as one of the most consistent complaints raised in our national

## Pluses and minuses for Thatcher

From Mr C. S. P. Harwood

Sir, Those who cry "treachery" and accuse the Conservative MPs of disloyalty adopt the same position as those who fought to keep the steel mills and mining villages unchanged despite the change in economic conditions. To retain the status quo, despite a perceived need for change, for emotional reasons leads to long-term suffering and further decline.

It is sad to see a prime minister, who has achieved so much for the country, leave in such a manner. It was also sad to see mining communities break up and steel workers made redundant after years of loyal service. Both, however, had to happen and appeal to one's heart will hurt but should not prevent the right decision being made.

Yours faithfully,  
C. S. P. HARWOOD,  
5 Orchard Court,  
Victoria Rise, SW4.

From Mr Lance Mitchell

Sir, Two moments from the 1990 Conservative party conference will live forever in my memory.

One, of course, is the leader's brilliantly inspired "dead parrot" joke. The other is the Chairman's call, "Hands up! Hands up!... all those who think the prime minister is doing a good job!... There BBC! There's your answer! Film that!"

Wasn't it wonderful to see the Conservative party united behind their leader?

Yours faithfully,  
LANCE MITCHELL,  
c/o The Heights,  
Broadway, Whitwell,  
Hertfordshire.

From Miss Jacqueline Ross

Sir, The prime minister's resignation has, quite rightly, prompted many tributes and it is only fair that her many achievements should be remembered. But we must not overlook her failings, presenting Michael Heseltine, Geoffrey Howe and the like as villains and Margaret Thatcher the victim.

I believe, Sir, that we have been the victims of an over-powerful prime minister for too long. I look forward to the return of cabinet government under Mr Heseltine. Yours faithfully,  
JACQUELINE ROSS,  
2 St John Street,  
York.

From Mr Geoffrey Mills

Sir, Sir Jeffrey Sterling (November 17) suggested that the exchange rate is the only opinion poll which matters when considering our prime minister's performance.

In 1979 the pound was worth over 500 Yen (today 230), DM 4 (today 2.9), Sw Fr 3.6 (today 2.4) and Gd 4.4 (today 3.3). Even in relation to the sickly US dollar it has fallen from 2.3 to 1.9.

From Mr Keith A. Bevan

Sir, In the event of Douglas Hurd becoming prime minister may I suggest that he need only make one cabinet change. That being the appointment of Mrs Thatcher to his former post as foreign secretary, thereby enabling the formidable Mrs Thatcher to continue in the role to which she is best suited, as an ambassador for the country on the world stage.

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH BEVAN,  
16 Summerfield Court,  
Edge Lane,  
Chorlton-cum-Hardy,  
Manchester 21.

From Mr Colin Lear

Sir, Royal Conservatives should unite and nominate a candidate for Henley.

Yours faithfully,  
COLIN LEAR,  
Castle Farm,  
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

From Mr Kwai bridge victims

From Major P. M. Robinson

Sir, Your report "Kwai bridge victims being found" (November 19) states that this mass grave at Kanchanaburi "is the first from the second world war to be found in South East Asia".

In July 1943 about 40 or 50 miles up the line and up river at Toucan Spring Camp during the cholera outbreak I saw an open mass grave of Asian forced labourers. Kanchanaburi was only near the beginning of the line, and comparatively civilised. The further the line went through the jungle the rougher the conditions were. There must be many more mass graves to be discovered up there.

These tens of thousands of Asians should also be remembered.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL M. ROBINSON,  
58 Wharncliffe Road,  
Ilkeston, Derbyshire,  
Lincoln's Inn, WC1.

November 19.

From Mr Poll tax and the vote

From Mr S. C. Procter

Sir, As a former chief officer in a district authority, I would like to comment on Douglas Brown's report, "Poll tax defectors may lose the vote" (November 8). It illustrates some of the nonsense

of this "tax".

First, it is pertinent to recall that those who have to administer the community charge and others who thought intelligently about it, the interests which Mr Herbert very properly seeks to advance, namely full acceptance in public and professional life of those women and members of ethnic minorities who wish to serve, would undoubtedly be advanced by his proposal, but that is not, or should not, be the point.

Yours faithfully,  
S. C. PROCTER,  
8 Shelves Way,  
Tadworth, Surrey.

From Mr Child protection

From the Director of Family Rights Group

Sir, We are saddened to read (report, November 13) of Rockdale's failure to follow government guidance on child protection procedures, but we are not surprised by the inspectors' findings.

Oppression has just come to the end of a three-year project to promote family participation in child protection work.

It has revealed that fewer than 10 per cent of local authority areas in England and Wales have proper procedures to encourage and enable parents to participate in crucial planning and decision-making meetings about their children.

At the heart of the problem is the view of some professionals that they hold all the answers on child protection, and that parents' knowledge and expertise about their children count for nothing.

The balance of power between agencies and families will need to shift dramatically before we see

any real progress on joint work to protect children and promote their welfare.

Legislation might succeed where guidance has failed. When the Children Act was passing through Parliament two years ago, the Lords tried, but failed, to get inserted into the Act the Cleveland recommendation that parents should attend child protection conferences.

If that amendment had succeeded, we are sure that agencies would now be working out ways of changing practice before the Act is introduced next year. An amendment at this late stage might offer the best chance that children will no longer be failed by agencies who continue to ignore their families.

Yours faithfully,

JO TUNNARD, Director,  
Family Rights Group,  
The Print House,  
18 Ashwin Street, E8.

From Mr Letters to the editor

From the Chairman of the Hallé Concerts Society and others

Sir, The Minister for the Arts, David Mellor, has recently secured a notable victory on behalf of the arts in the annual battle with the Treasury (report, November 10).

Regrettably, so far as the regionally-based symphony orchestras are concerned, and in this context London has been "regionalised", much of his success is about to be seriously undermined by a bureaucratic process Mr Mellor has inherited from his predecessor, originally called devolution, and more aptly dubbed relegation.

This process may have advantages for some Arts Council clients but it is the unanimous view of the major symphony orchestras in this country, currently funded by the Arts Council, that delegation could put them at a severe financial disadvantage.

The symphony orchestras in England provide a nationwide service and are active worldwide. Although naturally they have a centre of operation in one city, they all present far more concerts outside their own region than within it. Local authority support from within the area of the arts board to which they are to be delegated, except in the case of Birmingham, is significantly less than that derived from local authorities outside their regions.

The cost of this proposed reorganisation, including redundancy packages at the existing

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Regionalising orchestras' funds

From the Chairman of the Hallé Concerts Society and others

Sir, The Minister for the Arts, David Mellor, has recently secured a notable victory on behalf of the arts in the annual battle with the Treasury (report, November 10).

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This process may have advantages for some Arts Council clients but it is the unanimous view of the major symphony orchestras in this country, currently funded by the Arts Council, that delegation could put them at a severe financial disadvantage.

We would urge the Minister and the Arts Council to think again before any fundamental damage is caused to some of this country's finest assets.

Yours faithfully,

SEBASTIAN de FERRANTI,

Chairman, Hallé Concerts Society.

GEORGE JONAS, Chairman,

City of Birmingham Symphony

Orchestra Society.

JOHN



## COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 23: The Queen left Heathrow Airport, London this morning for the Federal Republic of Germany where Her Majesty visited Royal Air Force Leimbach and was received by Group Captain Neil Buckland, RAF (Commanding Officer).

Subsequently, The Queen honoured Wing Commander N. A. Orchard, RAF (President of the Mess Committee) with her presence at luncheon in the Officers' Mess.

In the afternoon Her Majesty toured the Station, attended a reception in the Sergeants' Mess and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

Afterwards The Queen visited The President of the Federal Republic of Germany at Villa Hammerschmidt in Bonn.

Her Majesty later arrived at Heathrow Airport, London.

The Countess of Airlie, Mr Robin Jaevrin, Rear Admiral David Allen, Mr Charles Anson, Surgeon Captain Norman Mackie, RN, Air Commodore Sir John Timothy Elwes and Wing Commander David Walker, RAF were in attendance.

This morning The Princess Royal attended the Annual Conference of the Scotian

Division of the Institute of Geologists at Gleneagles Hotel, Gleneagles and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Tayside (Major David Butter).

Afterwards Her Royal Highness, Patron, the Butler Trust, visited Her Majesty's Prison Shotts, Scott Drive, Shotts and was received on arrival by Mr James Burns (Deputy Lieutenant of Lanarkshire).

Mrs Richard Carew Pole was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE November 23: The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, attended a Prince of Wales Innovation Awards meeting at St John's Innovation Centre, Cowley, Cambridge.

Mr Guy Salter was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE November 23: Princess Alexandra this afternoon opened the Peter Scott Scanner Suite at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Lancashire, Mr Simon Towneley.

The Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.

## Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Ian Botham, cricketer, 35; Mr Lynn Chadwick, sculptor, 48; Miss Billie Connolly, 48; Miss Elizabeth Flock, 46; Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin, 70; Lord John Macmillan, 81; Mr David Kossoff, actor and author, 71; General Sir Richard Lawson, 63; Professor Sir Clans Moseley, warden, Wadham College, Oxford, 68; Mr Charles Osborne, author, 63; Mr Alun Owen, actor and scriptwriter, 65; Miss Vivien Saunders, golfer, 44; the Right Rev F.S. Temple, former Bishop of Malmesbury, 74.

TOMORROW: Major Nicholas Barne, royal equerry, 47; Lord Devlin, 85; Mr Francis Durbridge, playwright and author, 78; Miss Maria Fyfe, MP, 52; Sir Cosmo Haskard,

## Dinners

HM Government: Mr Ian Lang, Minister of State at the Scottish Office, was host last night at a dinner given by Her Majesty's Government at Bute House, Edinburgh, for representatives of Scandinavian companies.

Faculty of Building: Mr Sydney Chapman, MP, was host at a dinner of the Faculty of Building held last night at the House of Commons. Mr Robert M. Smith, president, presented the 1990 Gordon Tomlinn Bursary award to Mr Francis Tibalds. Mr John Taylor, MP, delivered the Lord Bessborough Lecture.

English-Speaking Union: Mr David Hicks, Director-General of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth, welcomed the guests at a thanksgiving reception and dinner held last night at Dartmouth House for ESU American and Canadian scholars studying in this country. Mr David Jewell, Master of Hailsham and Chairman of the ESU Scholarship Selection Committee, was the guest of honour. Miss Mary Speer, Assistant Cultural Attaché at the American Embassy, was among those present.

Earl Kitchener of Khartoum: Earl Kitchener of Khartoum presided at the annual dinner of the Kitchener Scholars' Association held last night at the House of Lords. The principal speakers were the Very Rev Eric Evans, Dean of St Paul's, and Sir William Barlow.

Neill Holt: Mr Christopher Woolley, Headmaster of St Christopher's, Burnham-on-Sea, and a

member of Council of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools, has been appointed Headmaster of Nevill Holt from September 1991, in succession to Mr David Phillips, who is retiring after 23 years.

Not Under Command Club: Admiral Sir Benjamin Bathurst, Commander-in-Chief, Fleet, was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Not Under Command Club held last night in HMS Royal Arthur. Commander S.N. Robertson, chairman, presided.

Midland Naval Officers: Rear-Admiral J.P. Edwards, President of the Midland Naval Officers' Association, presided at a dinner held last night at the Council House, Birmingham. Among the principal guests were:

The Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Lord Justice Sir Jeremy Stock, Mr Justice Sir Alan Clegg, and Mr Justice R. Ernest (American) and G. Cooper.

Devonshire and Dorset Regiment: Lieutenant-General J.F.W. Wilsey, Colonel of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, presided at the annual officers' dinner held last night at Wyvern Mess, Bulford.

RAOC Airborne Officers: Major-General P.L. Chisholm was the guest of honour at the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Airborne Officers' annual reunion dinner held last night at the HQ Officers' Mess, Deepcut.

Brigadier D. Baugh presided. Major-General G.B. Bernagan and Major-General P.W.E. Istead were among those present.

## The King's School Canterbury

The Duchess of Kent on Thursday opened The King's School, Canterbury's new Recreation Centre at Blore's Piece and was welcomed by the Dean of Canterbury, the Very Rev John Simpson, Chairman of Governors, and the Canon Dr Anthony Phillips.

Prosecutions were made to her by the Captain of School, Tonya Fadey, the Senior Girl, Beverly Tarr, and the school's youngest pupil, Joanna Houghton. Among those present were governors and members of the school and donors to the Building Fund Campaign.

## Luncheons

HM Government: The Earl of Caithness, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, held a luncheon yesterday at Carlton Gardens to mark the opening of the Nehru Gallery at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Architects and Surveyors Institute: Mr John A. Nutshell, President of the Architects and Surveyors Institute, was host at the presidential luncheon held yesterday at the New Connaught Rooms. Mr Edward Leigh, MP, and Mr David Lazenby, President of the Institution of Structural Engineers, were the principal guests.

## Carey honour

Dr George Carey, Bishop of Bath and Wells and Archbishop designate of Canterbury, was given the freedom of Wells, Somerset, yesterday during a ceremony in the city's market square, attended by more than 1,000 children.

## Receptions

Corporation of London: The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by Mr Alderman and Sheriff and Mrs Walford, received the guests at a reception given by the Corporation of London at the Mansion House yesterday after a service held in St Paul's Cathedral to mark the death of Cardinal Newman (1801-1890).

River Thames Society: The Lower Tideway branch of the River Thames Society held a reception last night at Watermen's Hall, Mr J. Watson Parton, vice-chairman of the society and chairman of the branch, presided. Mr Barrett Wilson also spoke.

Westminster School: The sixth Adrian Boult memorial concert given by Miss Felicity Lou, accompanied by Canon John, took place at School on Thursday, November 22, after which the Head Master held a reception in Ashburnham House.

## Weekend royal engagements

TOMORROW: Prince Edward, as Patron of the Scottish Badminton Union, will attend the finals of the Carlton Vanwall Scottish Open Badminton Championships at Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh, at 10.30, and will attend the Grand Order of Water Rats annual ball at Grosvenor House at 7.30.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of the London Suzuki Group, will attend a concert at St John's Smith Square at 3.05 in aid of the group's building fund.

## Appointments

Latest appointments include:

Brigadier R. W. Acworth to be Registrar of St Paul's Cathedral, from January 14.

## OBITUARIES

Roald Dahl, author and scriptwriter, died yesterday aged 74. He was born in Llandaff on September 13, 1916.

Roald Dahl attained his greatest fame with his children's books, which achieved a popularity unsurpassed in this country since Enid Blyton. And there was never going to be any dispute about who was the superior writer. Before that he was well known to an adult public from his connection with a long-running television series of half-hour macabre playlets with a twist, *Tales of the Unexpected*. Dahl had always had a large following for his adult books. He could fairly be described as the most distinguished writer to continue in the blackly humorous tradition of Saki, killed by a sniper's bullet in the first world war. He won the Mystery Writers of America Edgar Allan Poe Award on three occasions.

Roald Dahl was born of Norwegian parents. His father had given up farming near Oslo for shipbroking in Wales. His mother, Sofie Hesselberg, was the daughter of a meteorologist who was also a classical scholar. His father died when Roald was a child, but there was enough money to keep the family in comfortable circumstances. So off he went to Repton School in Derbyshire where he distinguished himself in games. Resisting the attractions of a university education, he joined, at 18, the Public Schools' Exploring Society's expedition to Newfoundland. He then joined Shell, and, after a period of training in London, was sent to Dar-es-Salaam, a collection of cleverly morbid stories which had appeared in such publications as the *New Yorker* and *Harper's*. *Kiss, Kiss* (1960) was exactly the same sort of book, and was correspondingly successful.

His strength lay not in psychological penetration or characterisation, but in plot ability and sheer inventiveness. In *Georgie Porgie*, typical of him at his very best, an insignificant person feels that he has been eaten by a huge woman who comes to kiss him, and he retains a mad conviction that he actually lives inside her: "It is all a trifle bizarre". Saki would have done this in very similar fashion. It was well said of Dahl that he "knew how to steer an unwavering course along the hairline where the grotesque and comic meet and mingle".

Dahl, who had become well known in the United States through his television series *Way Out*, went from strength to strength, achieving great success with tales for children such as *James and the Giant Peach* (1961) and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (1964), both published in Puffin paperback. The latter, still much read today, was filmed as *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. Dahl had become well known to him about two wives' strenuous attempts to murder their husbands, was produced in New York in 1955, but the reviews closed it quickly. Nor were his more recent comments on the Salma Rushdie affair — in what became a notorious letter to *The Times* — well received: Rushdie, he announced, had known what he was asking for. Dahl's apparent callousness did seem to some to be reminiscent of the allegedly over-cruel element in his stories.

Such dubious excursions into public controversy apart, Dahl was at all times a professional, whose name was his trademark. He exercised remarkable control over what he was doing, and seldom made serious mistakes. And



lowed. Although this attracted a few admiring reviews, as did his novel *Sometime, Never: A Fable for Supermen* (1948), it failed to make a real mark for Dahl, even though he had by this time achieved the polished professionalism which distinguished all his writings. But he broke through into the bestseller lists with *Sometime, Never: A Fable for Supermen* (1948), it failed to make a real mark for Dahl, even though he had by this time achieved the polished professionalism which distinguished all his writings. But he broke through into the bestseller lists with *Sometime, Never: A Fable for Supermen* (1948), it failed to make a real mark for Dahl, even though he had by this time achieved the polished professionalism which distinguished all his writings. 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But he broke

The Lord asked, 'Why should I forgive the sins of my people? They have abandoned me, worshipped gods that are not real. Jerusalem?'

## BIRTHS

**SAKNER** - On November 22nd, at Ludwigsburg, Germany, to Fiona (de Carteret) and Stephen, a son, James Alexander, was born.

**MONAHAN** - On November 21st, in Virginia City, Nevada, to Dale Sharp and Thomas, a son, Fred.

**WERNHOLDT** - On November 16th, in Jersey City, New Jersey, to Jessica (de Matheson) and Gordan, a daughter, Miranda.

**CHAPMAN** - On November 19th, in Wellington, The Humans (Grice) and Colin, a son, Matthew John.

**COLLINS** - On November 20th, in Caversham, Oxford, to Alan, a son, Matthew, a daughter, Catherine, a son, Alex.

**GRIBBLE** - On November 21st, in London, to Anne (de Micy) and Daniel, a son, William.

**LONGSHOTT** - On November 19th, Peter and Carol, a son, Edward Andrew.

**TUSS** - On November 16th, in Nicky and Carol's home, a son, James Richard.

## DEATHS

**ASHTON** - On Tuesday November 20th, peacefully in hospital after a short illness, Tony, aged 77, much loved father of John and David, and grandfather of Alan and Christopher, of Hounslow Crematorium on Wednesday November 22nd at 11.30 am. Beloved husband of Amanda and Christopher, of Hounslow, Surrey.

**STAFFORD** - On November 19th, in London, to Peter Lynn, a son, Alan, a daughter, Vicki, a son, Daniel, a son, Vicki, a daughter, and a son, Freddie.

**WILSON** - On November 22nd at the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, after a short illness, George Davis, 86 years. Beloved husband of Anna and Robert, and a son, Michael, of Wigan. Funeral November 30th, Service 2.15 pm, Wigan Crematorium, Derry. Flowers may be sent to G. Watford & Son, (0322) 452666.

**BONHOMME** - On November 19th, in hospital, Colmar Orde Charles Staple Royal, 86 years. Beloved husband of the late Florence, father of Robert, Carol and Charles, grandfather of Michael, Alice and George. Funeral Tuesday December 4th at All Souls, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, 2 pm. Ashford Cemetery.

**BOWLES** - On November 22nd, 1990, Hugh Tracy, aged 91, sadly of illness, at St John's Rest Home, Melrose, Mura, aged 64 years. Beloved husband of the late Florence, father of Kenneth and Graham. Funeral at 2.45 pm on Monday November 20th at Melrose Cemetery, Edinburgh. Family flowers only.

**HELLION** - On November 18th, in hospital in Sheffield, W.H. R.P.M. (Gron), aged 64 years, of Brooklands Crescent, Sheffield. Lecturer at the University of Sheffield and formerly of Aberdeen University and the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. John, a loyal and respected friend and mentor of Stephen and a good friend to many. Services to be held at St. Martin's Church, Bramall, on Thursday November 29th at 2.30 pm. Funeral Directors, 72 Elm Hill, High Street, SE3, to National Children's Home.

**MCINTYRE** - On November 19th, 1990, Hugh Tracy, aged 91, sadly of illness, at St John's Rest Home, Melrose, Mura, aged 64 years. Beloved husband of the late Florence, father of Kenneth and Graham. Funeral at 2.45 pm on Monday November 20th at Melrose Cemetery, Edinburgh. Family flowers only.

**WELLIN** - On November 18th, in hospital in Sheffield, W.H. R.P.M. (Gron), aged 64 years, of Brooklands Crescent, Sheffield. Lecturer at the University of Sheffield and formerly of Aberdeen University and the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. John, a loyal and respected friend and mentor of Stephen and a good friend to many. Services to be held at St. Martin's Church, Bramall, on Thursday November 29th at 2.30 pm. Funeral Directors, 72 Elm Hill, High Street, SE3, to National Children's Home.

**PARKER** - On November 22nd, peacefully in Windhorne Hall Nursing Home, Newark, Sir Alan, Dearly loved husband of Shirley, and much loved father of Linda and Peter, grandfather of David, Helen, Lucy and John. Funeral Services St. Helen's Church, Bramall, on Thursday November 29th at 2.30 pm. Funeral Directors, E. Gill & Sons, (0353) 77461.

**PATERSON** - On November 18th, at home, Alastair Rose, 82, much loved father of Sophie, Founding Partner of MacDowell, Toronto.

**REEDS** - On November 21st, 1990, peacefully in London, St Edmunds, Cecilia, beloved mother of Gladys, John and Jeanne, and grandmother, Private Research Memorial Service at Westminster Cathedral on November 17th at 3 pm. No flowers please. Friends are welcome to St Nicholas' Church, St Edmunds, St Edmunds.

**SETHI** - On November 21st, 1990, peacefully at home, aged 53 years. Beloved husband of Parveen, a son, Parveen, a daughter, and a son, Gurjeet.

**SHAW** - On November 21st, 1990, peacefully in London, St Edmunds, Cecilia, a son, Gurjeet.

**WILLIAMS** - On November 21st, 1990, peacefully in London, St Edmunds, Cecilia, a son, Gurjeet.

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Farmer's Diary: Paul Heiney

## Stable mates bid for power

THE only item in our old stable that relates in any way to the latter half of this century is a transistor radio. I switch it on for the early morning news and more often than not it stays switched on. However, I have decided that I must be more careful about leaving it blaring. The political upheavals of the past week have proved infectious, and the farm is now in the midst of its own leadership battle.

To predict the outcome you need to know the contenders for the crown and the devousness of the electoral system. When we had only two horses life was simple. Punch was premier. Punch is a good-looking horse, intelligent but self-willed. For a decade he has been paired with Star, his deputy, who is as good a workhorse as anyone could wish for. Star is never bad-tempered and has never refused to pull with all his might. I heard that a previous owner had accidentally driven Star into a ditch so deep it needed the fire brigade to drag him out. When the rescue team arrived, it found the peaceful Star up to his knees in mud, eyes half closed, blissfully enjoying the fresh grass growing up the sides of the deep drain and blaming nobody. It took a crane to lift him out, after which the old statesman was put back between the shafts and ambled off as if nothing had happened. It was his finest hour.

But as in politics, so in the farmyard: it is not always the best man that wins. For most of his working life the down-trodden Star has been ruled by his chipper companion Punch, who can be bad-tempered. Sensing when it is time for work he will fling his head to the rafters to make it more difficult to get his collar on. When ploughing, he will stop, irritatingly, half way along the furrow if he thinks it is time he has a rest. You may curse, even scream at him, but he shows his insolent mastery by moving off as slowly as he knows how.

Back at the stable he ruthlessly reaffirms his status by pawing the concrete floor with his front feet if he is not fed before the others. He knows that to a farmer who has to pay ever-increasing blacksmith's bills, nothing grates like the sound of the needless scraping of a £10 iron horseshoe.

So the old ruler reigned unchallenged until the spring, when

our new young horse, Blue, arrived. I have already detailed the bitter battle that raged the night he moved in. Equine teeth were bared and those who feel wounded by political back-biting can think themselves lucky they did not have the angry Punch coming at their spines with mouth wide open. He won the first round. There was no second ballot.

Things settled down for the long hot summer and each horse made his own territory on the meadow: Blue standing apart from the others, younger and fitter, with his flowing mane. It looked as though nothing could upset the old order. But when the seasons turned and the days grew shorter, I brought the horses back to the yard for the winter. Punch, at 15 years old, is looking his age. It is rare for him to go ploughing, for Blue and the ever-youthful Star make an easily worked and efficient team.

Blue, sensing that Punch may be loosing his grip, is seizing his opportunity. Hence the leadership crisis. We have a hayrack at which Punch and Star used to feed, with Blue approaching only when they had finished. Now I notice he is standing his ground, and if he gets there first he will not budge. It means more back-biting, more aggravation. Fearing an accident, I

have been putting a separate pile of hay in the corner away from the rest, so that he can feed in peace. But as soon as the horses are released from the stable Punch, I notice, walks straight over to his rival's hay and piddles all over it. His political technique would be the envy of even the most ruthless parliamentary chief whip.

I am not quite certain which of them will emerge as the new leader. When I open the stable door in the morning, I observe closely the order in which they file through. Blue, I'm sorry to say, is still last. Surprisingly, Star is occasionally first. Perhaps the dark horse will make it after all.

Which horse decides it is boss matters little; the farm is a dictatorship. If any of them start getting above themselves I warn them that the phone number of the cat meat man is at hand.

However, dictators have been having a difficult time lately and with the anniversaries of events in eastern Europe, I think the radio must be silenced. It gives the carthorses too many ideas.

Perhaps that was part of the

On the table in front of the window overlooking a London square is a big pot of sugar pink Jersey lilies (nerines), curvaceous and confident, glamourising grey November days in the city. They had been flowering since the beginning of October at Deborah Kellaway's home in Norfolk, "flopping about either side of our garden door".

Mrs Kellaway and her husband bought their country cottage, with its acre and a half of land, 25 years ago. The cottage, three or four hundred years old with two large beamed fireplaces, had been recently restored, and had "such a pretty little face, with two upstairs windows like eyes under curved thatched eyebrows", but the land had fallen derelict.

When they began work on the garden, the weeds stood as high as their eldest, nine-year-old daughter, Kate. By the time they had cleared them, and cut back the overgrown hedges which had obscured far-reaching views from the hedged oak over the meadows beyond, the cottage stood not so much in a garden as in a Siberian landscape. Bleak and bare, it was without perspective, the points of reference which trees and paths and borders bestow to make a house fit into its countryside.

The story of how Mrs Kellaway achieved that fit was told in her book *The Making of an English Country Garden*, published in 1988. Last month she published its corollary, *The Making of Town Gardens*. Her books are a pleasure for the non-gardener and gardener alike. There are no long lists, no deadly hints. The thread of her whole life runs through the development of the gardens.

For several years after her marriage in 1952 the room intended for a baby's nursery in the Kellaways' London home was, instead, a nursery for begonias. As the years went by there were more begonias, but still no baby. Then, "after five years of planting", Mrs Kellaway writes, "a change came over the garden. There was a pram on the lawn."

With the arrival of the children came the urge to get away somewhere for holidays. "And I did think the English countryside was so beautiful — for the softness of the light and the green."

Mrs Kellaway had been brought up in Australia. She was "knocked sideways" by Oxford in October when she came to England to do her degree in 1946. "Old stone, green lawns, autumn trees." But the desire for a second home arose because she had not really chosen their first one. "It belonged to my mother-in-law and we lived at the top in a flat. She generously gave it to us when she went back to Australia. It was a lovely house, but I hadn't chosen it."

Above all, there was choosing

for the garden. It is glorious now. Two Irish yews frame the face of the cottage. The little window in the kitchen with its six fixed panes looks out over a herb garden, with towering angelica, through a clearing in the woodland and over to the fields. A long lawn runs through the herbaceous border, flanked by a "very tailored" tiered

hedge, sloping to the willows and the water meadow beyond.

For years the planting was governed by the school holidays when the Kellaways would be there and restricted by the impossibility of daily watering when they could, every third weekend.

There were quarry tiles to be chosen for the kitchen, and furniture. She bought beech chairs with a carved rail on turned legs for £2.6d (about 63p) at auction and a rectangular oak drop-leaf table for £3.

There were no "giant June flowering beauties which all need staking". The blues are *Eryngium tripartitum*, 2ft tall with lots of little "mist-blue thimbles growing out of a stiff, starry ruff of sepals", and the globe thistle, *Echinops ritro*, "beloved of bees".

The pinks are Japanese anemones and *Lavatera Rosea*. Tufts of *Agapanthus campanulatus* thrive without water and surround the eating areas, paved with pavers — "Norfolk brick things".

The Kellaways eat outside most of the summer, beside the tall pink

her part-time job teaching English at a girls' school in Camden, north London, she and her husband, a retired historian, are no longer restricted to holiday flowerings, and planting in Norfolk has become a year-round affair. "My husband looks after all the grass and the quite ridiculous yards of hedges. He likes the lawn to have a neat frame; and then I can have untidy flowers within. We are tied to the garden, but it's so good for us. It is our work; I'd be lost without it."

The cottage was newly thatched when they bought it. They had it re-thatched 12 years later, but not with Norfolk reed. "The thatcher said, 'Oh, straw'll suit you out', but it hasn't. It needs doing again."

### ELUNED PRICE

• *The Making of an English Country Garden (Chatsworth & Windus, paperback, £7.99). The Making of Town Gardens (Macmillan, £14.95).*

BREEDING rabbits is a fast moving business, according to Edwin Sutton, who worriedly checks his watch, rather like Alice's White Rabbit. He is rushing to clear a consignment detained at Kuala Lumpur airport, in Malaysia. His company, Hythe Rabbits, of Lynton, Cheshire, exports breeding stock to about 50 countries.

He says his business helps to alleviate world hunger, and claims the Pope has predicted that by the year 2000 a third of the world's population would be sustained by rabbit meat.

The financial prospects for the business look healthy, says Mr Sutton, who has spent £100,000 developing his Simone stock. "The export potential is tremendous," he says. "We produce only 44,000 rabbits a week in Britain, but the French farmers produce 10 million a week. The French housewife prefers black rabbits, buying the animal whole."

In this country, housewives keeping rabbits in their back gardens account for 40 per cent of his customers. His "maternity" rabbits hold about 20,000 rabbits.

Mr Sutton's interest in rabbits started in 1955 when his wife, Eileen, bought one for six shillings (about 30p) at an outdoor market. The rabbit proved to be pregnant,

Carolina rabbit, a rapid grower and breeder with a light bone structure and lots of meat. New Zealand Whites are another strain he recommends for beginner breeders.

Happy rabbits doing what comes naturally mean that a £24 purchase of a doe and buck will earn about £60 a year net.

"Ten rabbits take 20 minutes a day to look after," Mr Sutton says. They eat green stuff, from carrot tops to cabbage stalks, and pelleted food costing £160 a ton, which is also available in small packs.

The does start breeding at five-and-a-half months and, after 28 days gestation, produce between eight and 14 offspring. His does each produce 60 offspring a year.

The Flopsy bunny image transferred to the dinner plate may be hard to swallow, but Mr Sutton says that lean, high-protein rabbit meat, chopped and pre-packed at supermarkets, is a big seller.

Mr Sutton also offers a marketing service for clients — "The rabbits are collected live for delivery to the abattoirs, where electrocution is used" — holds open days and runs courses in rabbit farming.

### SANDY BISP

• *Edwin Sutton, Hythe Rabbits, Lynton, Cheshire, WA13 9JZ. (05275 3005 (514010).*

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EMBURY STEAM RAILWAY, NEAR SLOPTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE. 0758 795 189. KENT AND EAST SUSSEX STEAM RAILWAY, TENTERDEN, KENT. 0580 851 555. TOMORROW AND EVERY SUNDAY UNTIL CHRISTMAS.

• RSPB DEMONSTRATIONS: Experts explain how to make and site nest boxes — the size, shape and position of which will determine the kind of birds likely to take up residence.

WILDFLOWERS TRUST, MARDIN MERE, ORWELL, TODAY, TOMORROW. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: 0483 224234.

• CASTLE HOWARD ANTIQUES FAIR: 35 selected exhibitors will be selling their wares in the grandeur of stately home surroundings.

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OPEN UP THE AUTOMATIC WAY

Aids-like virus 'may cause arthritis'

# Bread of haven in the Welsh valleys

**J**o Reardon Smith says: "Everybody talks about everything... but perhaps I wouldn't sit down and talk to them about the war."

Mrs Reardon Smith, who lives in a village near Cardiff, has "adopted" two German families who have recently moved to Wales. The arrangement is part of a scheme set up by Welsh Development International (WDI), a division of the public-funded Welsh Development Agency, for Robert Bosch, the German engineering company which has established its first UK plant at Miskin, south Glamorgan. More than 30 employees have followed it from Germany, and a number of British women have been recruited to help their families to settle in.

"Everything's gone fine, very well," says Mrs Reardon Smith, aged 49, "but it was potentially a bit awkward on the poppy weekend when the village had a big thing in front of the memorial. None of us mentioned it."

The British wife looks after her German counterpart for eight weeks, and is paid a small sum to cover her petrol, telephone, and time. Her duties include ringing her charge daily, and spending half a day each week with her to take her to the supermarket, help her buy curtains, find a doctor, join the local leisure centre, and so on.

"All mundane domestic things," Mrs Reardon Smith says. "I organised a birthday cake for one of the children, for example, and sorted out confusing water bills. I love it. They have come into our community. I want to show off the things we have here to advantage. It fits in with my other part-time job at PR for a country house hotel."

One of her "adopted" families, Dieter and Birgit Wohlfarth and their two children, from Stuttgart, arrived in July, but "there wasn't a cut-off point after the two months," Mrs Reardon Smith says. "We'll always be friends. I admire the

## When 30 German workers moved to Wales, locals went out of their way to help, reports Candida Crewe

Germans' methodical ways — how they set up the factory, get their houses fixed. I've had the two families under my wing up for Sunday lunch — roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, of course."

In the village pub, Stein and Martina Zuerndorf and Mrs Reardon Smith are contemplating the ploughman's lunch.

Frau Zuerndorf, aged 29, has left her charmed accountant's job back home to be a housewife here.

"The people here find everything so beautiful," she says. "Our English is always 'great', 'perfect'." They're so complimentary and polite. We have to get used to it."

"We are more honest," says her husband, aged 29, an accountant at Bosch. "For example, there was this lady I met who had a gruff voice. I asked if she had caught a cold. She said no, perhaps it was because she talked too much. I told her, yes, possibly. I think she was a bit surprised."

The three couples I spoke to mentioned the same things. They thought it odd that we eat sandwiches at lunchtime and a big dinner in the evening, and not vice versa. And our lack of environmental awareness struck them all — they cited the lack of recycling facilities here.

"We have a garbage problem in Germany like here," says Beate Turner, aged 39, who is looked after by Sue Reardon Smith. Jo's sister-in-law. "But here, when I asked some man about it, he said: 'We have the Bristol Channel'."

Frau Turner and her husband Gerhard (a managing director at Bosch) come from Stuttgart and have two children. She says fondly of Sue: "She came over every day to start with so you had the feeling you weren't a nobody."

Frau Turner and Frau Zuerndorf have both noted a segregation of the sexes here. "Women aren't so self-confident, nor so integrated," Frau Zuerndorf says. The Turners had a house-warming party for the neighbours and were amazed by how the room divided — men one end, women the other.

The Turners' modern house in Cardiff has thick carpets and leather sofas. "Your curtains are very luxurious and comfortable," Herr Turner says. "There you are well ahead. But your heating system and water taps are below standard. In Germany a shower is a real shower."

House prices and the cost of luxuries are higher here, and education is more advanced, they say. Children start school earlier in Britain, learn to read younger, and are more disciplined. "In Germany people have fewer children, so we want to do our best for them," Frau Zuerndorf says. "They're more individual. Here people are friendly with them, but they have to do what the parents want."

Frau Zuerndorf is pregnant, and "shocked" by the health system.

"I think British people live on completely another standard," she says. "To see six women in one room! And such old carpets in the hospital..." She is, however, impressed by the delivery methods, the new ideas".

But she has no complaints about Jo Reardon Smith, who has taken her to the theatre, shops, a local fashion show, and introduced her to someone who can give English lessons. She says: "I don't know what I would have done without her. Back in Germany we don't have this much support. Jo is a real friend."

## Feather report

# Whinge and a prayer

SHORT-eared owls are rather special. For a start, you can see them in the day. They are best seen in winter, in places where savage winds cut across treeless expanses. They love winter marshland: short-eared owls are pretty tough birds. They have the fiercest faces of all the British owls, with improbably bright yellow eyes.

Let me tell you about a rather wonderful place where you can get up to a dozen of them spending the winter. This place is also a roost for wintering hen harrier, as glorious a bird as you could hope to see anywhere in Britain, and it attracts nationally important numbers of teal, those absurdly handsome little ducks with red-and-green heads. You also get pectoral and ruff.

In summer, this grazing marsh supports breeding redshank and lapwing, both declining species in England, and the site is an important stop-off point for migrating birds: so much so that over the past 20 years it has attracted about 170 species — phenomenal by British standards.

Where is this site? London. Isn't that a magnificent thought? It lifts your heart to know that such splendid birds exist within the capital. And it is a protected area, too, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). So what are the management plans for this place of wonder?

For a start, the Department of Transport plans to bung a road straight through it. Next, a bunch of developers want to bung a theme park on it.

The site is Rainham Marshes, and there is a public enquiry continuing into the plans for the A13 road. Green issues are a popular concern: recent years have given us the phenomenon of turquoise politics. Many conservationists see the A13 enquiry as a test case: just how



Robin Jacques

serious are government bodies about conservation?

The Nature Conservancy Council, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the London Wildlife Trust are all preparing to state their cases at this enquiry in the coming weeks. All see this as an important issue: the government's credibility on green issues is at stake.

The LWT has pointed out other sites which the A13 will also damage irreparably. These include a pond complex inside the Dagenham Ford works, which the trust manages, and Rainham Creek. The A13 plans include a slip-road that will go "bang" through Marsh Dykes, where they couldn't do more damage if they tried," according to Phil Hurst, the LWT campaigner.

Kevin Bayes, the Thames and Chiltern conservation officer for the RSPB, says: "We are very concerned with the way the DoT tends to deal with conservation issues."

The DoT's view could be summed up as "how can we shut up all these twits, mits and busyness and get on with building our road?" Conservationists are seen as an opposition special interest group, rather than people working for a decent future for everybody.

In short, it seems that there has been no important change of thinking. The only difference that

green thinking has made is in the method used for shutting up the twits. In the A13 enquiry, this is called the "amelioration package", a terrifying Orwellian phrase.

"They appear to think that they can dig up an SSSI, plant a few bushes along the A13 and then go about saying how green they are," Mr Hurst says. "In fact, their environmental provisions are woefully inadequate. Their plans will have a drastic effect."

The future theme park development is more uncertain. Havering borough council has approved plans which would destroy 700 acres of SSSI. But this has yet to be acted upon: the latest word from the developer, MCA, is that it will wait for "a more favourable economic climate". It is not, presumably, holding its corporate breath. And clearly, the decision on the A13 will be important to its plans.

Conservationists are always whingeing on about something, and thank goodness for that. The LWT has been opposing various different plans for the destruction of Rainham Marshes since the Seventies. The price of conservation is eternal vigilance. And if that means eternal whingeing, let us all give our best to whingeing.

**SIMON BARNES**

Further details: London Wildlife Trust, 80 York Way, London N7 9AG (071-278 6612).

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Firm friends: Jo Reardon Smith (foreground) with one of her "adopted" German families, the Wohlfahrts

GLEN EDWARDS

# Tomes of the seasons

A new shop has its heart in the country

THERE are few less likely settings for rural pursuits than Goodge Street, London W1. Stumbling upon No 39 is a strange experience for it is the home of the Countryside Bookshop which, although only a few months old, can claim a rare commitment to the concept of *rus in urbe*.

Sadly, on the day I went there, it was sparsely visited. There had just been a signing session by Roddy Llewellyn to help launch his collection of garden furniture, and the place was all trellised grottoes and kissing chairs.

These are early days for a venture whose very existence is a pointer to the popularity of country literature. There are about 6,500 titles on the premises, the result of colossal toil by Susan Ready, the managing director. "I started sending off for the relevant books," she says, "but to begin with the reps simply didn't show up. They only seem to bother once you get established. We have just produced our own mail order catalogue so people in the country can get books from us without coming up to London."

It has virtually every category of book with even the most tenuous country link, and second-handers with such gems as Odham's *Lovely Britain*, Blandford's *Countryside Mood*, and Sir Ray Lankester's *Some Diversions of a Naturalist*, half-a-crown in 1925.

It all sounds like an unlikely departure for the owner, Felix Dennis, a computer consultant and publisher, until you learn he is a passionate walker. If his name is familiar, that is because 20 years ago he was downright famous as one of the defendants in the *Oz* magazine trial.

ALAN FRANKS

• Catalogues from: the Countryside Bookshop, 39 Goodge Street, London W1P 1FD (071-636 3156).

# Taking note of the natural timbre

Originals: Tim Wade, chair bodger

TIM Wade is 6ft 6in tall and knows how difficult it can be to find a comfortable chair. Luckily, he can come up with some of the solutions to this problem himself. He is a bodger, which means he makes chairs by traditional methods: working mostly with green or unseasoned woods. He has been a full-time bodger for five years, one of the few of a new generation of such craftsmen.

His most recent challenge was to make a ladderback rocking chair for a woman who was 6ft 3in, weighed 18st, measured 24in across the hips, and wanted to be able to rest her head on the back of the chair. "When she came to collect it, she did not ease herself gently into the chair to try it out, the way most people do. She just dropped down — plonk! It held up," he says. Such customized comfort, with Mr Wade's signature carved on it, costs £250.

Appropriately for National Tree Week, which started on Thursday, yet another piece of Mr Wade's work, commissioned for the Woodland Trust's "Seats in our Woods" scheme, is in Garth Dingle, Powys, mid-Wales. Mr Wade says the seat, made chiefly in oak, is "an over-stretched Windsor chair", to seat four people. Screening the back of the seat is a wavy hurdle which incorporates 17 Welsh hardwoods. "If people name all of them, they can win a chair," he says.

Mr Wade, aged 34, wants to encourage more people to enjoy woodlands and, in his own seven acres near Builth Wells, Powys, he has established an open-air workshop where he runs courses in chair bodging.

Mr Wade does not use electric-powered tools. After splitting freshly felled logs, he does the rough shaping with a draw-knife on a home-made shaving horse before turning the wood on a pole lathe, cut from a springy sapling and powered by a muscular thigh. "You go to the wood, rather than using fuel and harbour and damaging the environment to bring it to you," he says.

Because the wood is hand



Craftsman's pride: Tim Wade and one of his Windsor carver chairs

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# Old fighters no longer Poles apart

In London, the Polish president looks forward to stepping down. Trevor Simons reports

When General Jaruzelski achieved the presidency of Poland in 1983 by one vote in an election in which he was the only candidate, an announcement from the stage of a London theatre sent Ryszard Kaczorowski hurrying to an address in Eason Place. Before an audience of elderly men, Mr Kaczorowski was then sworn in as president of Poland.

Throughout the world there are millions of Poles who insist that 70-year-old Mr Kaczorowski, an accountant of Cricklewood, north-west London, had the greater claim to the office.

Poland has had a second government, a chosen leader, cabinet ministers and a rudimentary secretariat since the Poles landed with their eagle emblem in London in 1940. Tomorrow's presidential election in Poland could be another step towards enabling this exiled government to enact its final bill — to dissolve itself.

"To be sworn in as leader of Poland was the greatest possible honour," Mr Kaczorowski says. "Naturally, the greatest day of my life." He pauses. "Yet, not so. The greatest day will be when I cease to be president. The day I return to Poland for the first time since 1940 to carry back these items to my land."

These items, spread about his desk, include the original handwritten 1935 constitution (approved by the last freely elected Polish parliament), the crimson flag snatched from the mast above the palace as Nazis entered Warsaw, and the presidential seals without which, say the Poles in exile, no legislation enacted in their land since 1940 has been legal.

The powerful symbolism of the artefacts is obvious. So will be the significance of their return. Like the ashes of General Sikorski, the wartime leader, they may be handed back only to a government chosen in free elections.

In a Georgian house found for them by George VI and still let at a

peppercorn rent by the Duke of Westminster, one floor below the breathtakingly elegant presidential suite of Mr Kaczorowski, the cabinet of unpaid ministers meets every second Monday. Ministers are elected by the Polish national council (110 members in Britain and western Europe, 90 more in North and South America).

Zygmunt Szkołnicki, aged 60, a former university lecturer, is foreign minister. He says: "Officially recognised? By no one, but we have a voice that is heard via lobbyists in every western country. We do not cast, but everyone talks to us. Yalta itself did not shatter our dream of returning to the free Poland for which we had fought. The 1948 arrests and often executions of all opponents to the communists did so. We knew then there would be no quick return. Now a free Poland is inevitable."

With a role for members of the London government? "Some may be considered," he says. "Our friends in Poland with whom we have had long, but clandestine, contacts have expressed that possibility. Not as ministers, but with our experience of the modern West, as advisers."

Then as men, if not as ministers, would this cabinet go back? "A few, but the old fighters who made their home here are no longer young, no longer strong enough. We will visit. It is the young who are asking what the new Poland may hold for them."

A few miles away, in Hammersmith, the Polish cultural centre bustles with life. It houses a Polish museum, theatre, a library with 200,000 books, the Polish university with 120 professors and lecturers and 500 students, and offices of the 68 organisations representing Polish ex-servicemen.

Czesław Zychowicz is the chairman of the Polish Combatants' Association, which represents 8,000 former fighting men and the 25,000 sons they have since enrolled. He is also the vice-chairman of the Federation of Poles, linked to 80 Saturday



Ryszard Kaczorowski: 'We are bound together by our language and by a determination to keep Poland alive'

schools teaching language and culture to 4,500 young Poles, plus 30 ex-service and 60 parish-based social clubs. Probably 30 per cent of Britain's 140,000 Poles are in one or other organisation.

"Yes, we are close," Mr Zychowicz says. "We are bound together by shared experience of the war ... by our language ... by determination to keep Poland alive ... by religion.

"Yes, we have prospered. We could have gone post-war to the United States or Canada and perhaps had richer lives, but we stayed because we believed it was more possible to be free here."

Replica Spitfires and Lancaster bombers fill the air of the Polish

Airforce Club, a propeller strutters across the bar. Most days there are ten or 15 of the club's 1,300 members (of 18,000 wartime airmen) here for lunch. Andrzej Czyżkowski, the editor of the *Polish Daily* (circulation 15,000), is with them: "We have never felt like foreigners. From when we arrived as airmen, soldiers, or refugees, friendship has never been withheld. Our cohesion? That was done for us. We had fought together. Now we had nowhere to go. We knew what life they would give us if we went back. So we stayed and formed a small nation within a greater one. In 1949, the dream was to go back. Now we are too old."

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# But never jam tomorrow?

Parisians may have the answer to traffic snarls, but their tiny cars are not allowed on our roads, says Nicole Swengley

**T**he stress value of running a car in the city will soon be greater than that of moving house or changing jobs. Apart from the worry about rising petrol prices, your car could be clamped or ticketed, stolen, bashed into or towed away minutes after a harisa-inducing attempt to park in a tight space. But imagine a car so small it can ease through narrow spaces and park nose-on to the kerb, and so efficient it will do about 120 miles per gallon on cheap diesel fuel.

Tiny cars are not new. In the Fifties there were "bubble" cars, then the Mini, followed by Sir Clive Sinclair's attempt to conquer city jams with the ill-fated CS.

A visit to Paris will leave urban motorists yearning for the voulvette or VSP (voitures sans permis — no licence cars) which dart through traffic and park where no conventional car could. For example, the Aixam 325 measures only 8ft 5in long, by 4ft 4in wide (and high), and weighs under 6cwt.

Apart from these advantages, voulvettes can be driven in France by anyone over the age of 14 and by those who have lost their licence to drive a conventional car. They do not need licence plates, are not subject to a car tax, and insurance costs less than a quarter of the usual rate.

That these micro cars are finding favour with city people is hardly surprising, but they were developed during the Sixties as rural transport for older people in areas where public services were scarce. Their popularity rose during the oil crisis of 1973 and now they have become fashionable, with young professionals seizing on them as a practical and eco-friendly alternative to conventional cars.

Drawbacks include noisy diesel engines and hefty purchase prices, ranging from £5,000 to more than £7,000, but about a dozen companies in Paris are renting voulvettes for between £35 and £42 a day, plus a £250 to £400 deposit.

The cars can carry two passengers and reach speeds up to



Less stress? The tiny cars that dart in and out of traffic queues in Paris should ease motorists' frustrations, but they also have their drawbacks

45kph (28mph). Hot rod models, with a top speed of 75kph, require drivers to take the theory section of the French driving test. Like motorbikes, the cars are not allowed on motorways and *périphériques* (expressway by-passes).

Technically, voulvettes are simple. They have one, two or three-cylinder diesel engines with one forward gear and reverse. The body is usually made in polyester, reinforced with a tube steel frame, and interiors have upholstered, adjustable seats. Heating is standard. A moulded plastic dashboard has a speedometer and fuel gauge. The controls can be converted for handicapped people.

With the Gulf confrontation underlining anxieties about petrol prices and potential sources of new oil causing consternation among conservationists, it seems likely that sales of these micro cars will increase in Europe. Marial Howa, the commercial director of Aixam Automobiles, a

manufacturer in Aix-les-Bains, eastern France, says: "We sold 4,200 last year and 5,000 so far this year. In France the market is growing at a rate of 4 per cent a year and we are exporting 15 per cent of production to Belgium, Switzerland, Germany and Greece."

**S**o why have not we seen these cars on British roads? "We would like to sell to the United Kingdom, and have tried to," M Howa says. "But we have found no one to sell through."

Trevor Elliott, the UK divisional manager for Honda, says:

"If we imported cars such as Honda's 660cc Today from Japan

it would impinge on the number of other imports we could bring into the country. But, in the medium term, I can see the possibility of building very small cars in Europe if the market for them existed."

Renault has on its drawing board a smaller car than any other in its range but Raymond Levy, the company president, says the deciding factor is whether this would be profitable to produce. If it goes ahead, the car will probably be available only on the continent.

Are micro cars the solution to city transport problems? Gavin Page, an independent car designer,

while because of the small profit margins on small cars.

Honda and Suzuki, which both have very small cars on sale in Japan, say it would not be economically viable to import these to Britain.

"They do not ease the traffic flow that much because stopping distances are the same no matter how small your car. Nor does lack of acceleration help."

"Even though they are easier to park in cities I do not believe they offer enough advantages to make them a worthwhile purchase. Any one who wants a small car would be better off with, say, a Citroën AX or a Metro."

For further details contact: Aixam Automobiles, 56 Route de Pugny, 73100 Aix-les-Bains, France (010 33 79 61 42 45); Automobiles Bellier, Rue de la Petite-Garlière, BP 217, 85106 Les Sables-d'Olonne, France (010 33 51 90 27 27); Mardon en SA, Haute-Savoie, 76550 Offranville, France (010 33 35 84 36 12); Microcar Automobiles, Société Jeanneau, BP 83, 85503 Les Herbiers, France (010 33 51 91 06 10).

THIS is the time of year when most of us are compiling Christmas lists, buying cards and presents and planning the seasonal food and entertainment. But busy people can find it difficult to give such preparations the attention they require, and end up frantically searching for stocking fillers and crackers on Christmas eve.

Denise Katz, who runs the Creative Organising Service, is adding what she hopes will become a regular Christmas package to a range of services which have made her, she says, "the only British member of the American National Association of Professional Organisers".

Miss Katz, with the help of her three full-time assistants (and anyone else who may need to be enlisted) will undertake to do anything from ordering the turkey and trimming the tree to choosing the presents. She will even write your thank you letters or return unwanted gifts.

Miss Katz's services are expensive. She usually charges £300 for a six-hour day of reorganising wardrobes or teaching more effective time management. But for about £500 (plus expenses) she offers a package she believes will make the hurry out of Christmas.

That might involve going through your address book and family list to discover how many cards you require, buying them — or commissioning an artist to create them specially — and producing neatly typed, self-adhesive address labels; a double set, so you will have one ready for next year.

"I will arrange them in piles of family, friends, colleagues, so you can sign 'Love' or 'Best Wishes' or whatever is appropriate, and then I'll send them, having taken care to buy exactly the right number of stamps," she says.

Miss Katz, whose own obsessively orderly qualities drove her into her business, will discuss your Christmas present, food and drink requirements and make arrangements to buy them at the appropriate time. This could involve going to the stores with a client or doing the shopping herself using her own initiative.

"I much prefer shopping with a creative brief than simply searching for a particular item," she says. "But, in either case, I shop in a systematic, time-effective way having first sussed out a store so I

know where everything is and drawing up detailed lists so there is the minimum of wasted time and effort."

She will buy the gift-wrapping (making sure to get exactly the right amount, of course) and ensure there are the correct number and types of batteries for the children's gifts.

She can obtain staff to ensure your Christmas entertaining will flow smoothly, but if that is not in your budget she will, by enlisting the services of family and friends, draw up plans for keeping the children occupied. She will choose your tableware, napkins and candles, select your Christmas



Problem solver: Denise Katz

wreaths and lights and even deck the halls with boughs of holly.

Miss Katz, aged 40, is a former Marks & Spencer employee, single, and totally dedicated to her job. She admits she tends to rely rather heavily on the M & S food hall, but she will happily shop anywhere her clients suggest and search out new and unusual types of Christmas fare.

She can, she says, work within a strict budget, thereby saving you a substantial part of her fee, but she is even happier to be given carte blanche. If clients do not wish to hire her on a package basis, she will charge for individual assignments. Indeed, not being a parent herself, she seems to feel there is no task that cannot be delegated: she will even, she suggests, take your children to see Father Christmas in the grotto.

VICTORIA MCKEE

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Are micro cars the solution to

city transport problems? Gavin Page, an independent car designer,

will be better off with, say, a Citroën AX or a Metro."

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# The Irish dig in on treasure

Despite harsh penalties, the republic's laws on treasure trove are flouted, and curators are turning detective, says Sarah Jane Checkland

The Republic of Ireland authorities have got tough on treasure trove. Having tightened the law so that, unlike England and Wales, the state is entitled without argument to all treasure found on its soil, the National Museum of Ireland's curators have turned vigilante, working closely with detectives to bring back items excavated and exported.

Because of the rich pickings involved, the effort has been stressful. "Museum officials have been subject to threats and attempts at bribery," says Dr Eamonn Kelly, a curator with the national museum.

Meanwhile, the international Metal Detectors Society has invested £250,000 in a legal fund to protect its interests. Last week, the Irish authorities sent ripples of dismay through the British art world by claiming two items based in London: a pair of cannons bought by the Royal Armouries for £3,250 in the Seventies and now worth £30,000, and an early bronze age collar being offered for sale at £20,000 by a client of Christie's.

On show in the Tower of London, the 16th century cannon by the British makers John and Robert Owen was, its display label says, recovered from an unidentified wreck off the Irish coast. "I am reasonably confident it was raised off the Waterford coast," Dr Kelly says. "A police enquiry is in train into a number of cannon."

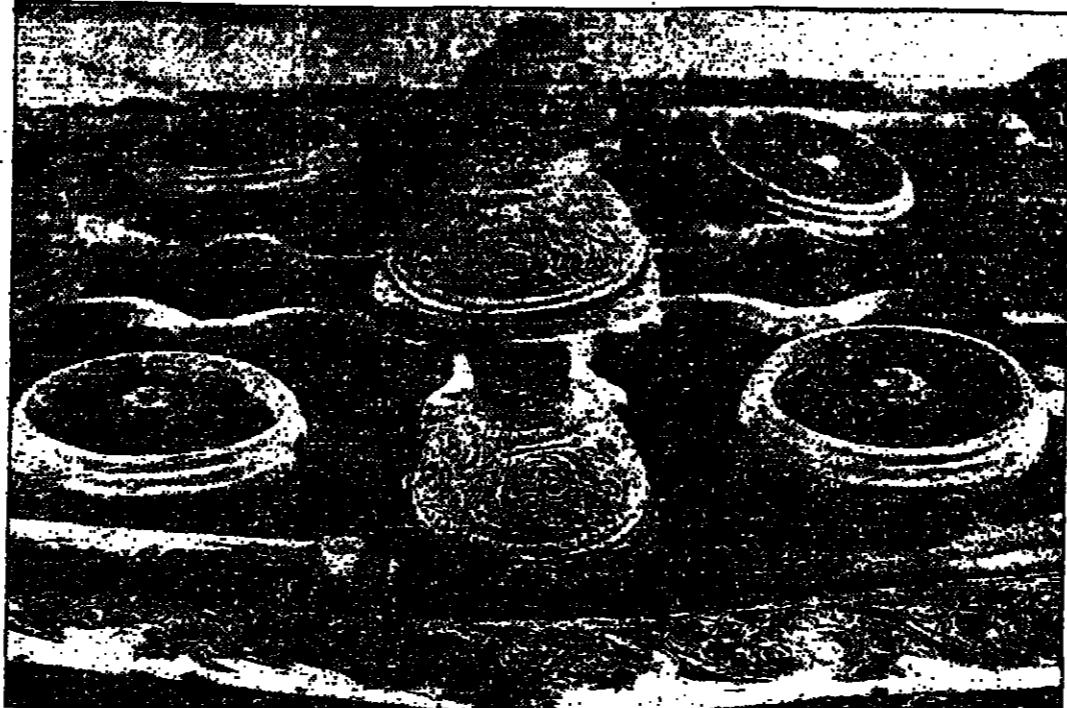
Graham Rimer, a curator at the Tower, says: "There was no skulduggery. It has never been established where the cannons came from, whether the Irish or Sussex coasts."

**"There was no skulduggery. It has never been established where the cannons came from, from the Irish or Sussex coasts"**

The treasure-hunters were tied into a network of dealers," Dr Kelly says. "The main outlet was London." There was obviously also an element of opportunism among individuals as the hobby developed its own cachet. Prospective buyers advertised in treasure-hunting magazines, such as *Searcher*, which is available in Britain and the Irish Republic. They also used official lists of protected monuments.

One method of shaking off claims was to change provenances for the bronze-age swords and Viking bracelets being sent to Britain, or to say items were found in Northern Ireland.

Taking decisive action in 1987, the authorities increased the penalty to £50,000 and a year's imprisonment, and banned the use of metal detectors. By contrast, English law states that if finders of treasure trove declare finds promptly and properly, they can expect their finds to be returned, or to receive an award equivalent to the market value. Also in 1987, the Irish supreme court overruled claims by two British treasure-hunters, Michael Webb and his son, also



This 8th century book shrine was intercepted by Irish officials after attempts were made to sell it in England



Officials believe these 16th century cannons, on show in the Tower of London, were raised off the Irish coast

called Michael, on a £5.25 million board they had found at Derryflass. The decision was that the material - chalices and the like - was state property under article two of the Irish constitution.

The government initiative left the way open for a series of successful claims by the state, including the 8th century Logh Killeen book shrine, found in the summer of 1986 on the bed of a loch in County Longford. It is the earliest and largest such wooden box decorated with a series of ornate bronze mountings yet

discovered. Irish officials intercepted it after efforts were made to sell it in Britain.

A 16th century cannon found this year by divers off Cape Clear Island, County Cork, and taken by car to England, was claimed last July following a tip-off from a Manchester museum. Last month, a museum in Weston-super-Mare, Avon, voluntarily returned some bone samples which had been in its possession for 80 years. Tactics to dissuade looters included an attack in 1987 by An Taisce, the Irish equivalent of the National

Trust on a Sotheby's advertisement asking for gravestones and statues as "an invitation to plunder", while in 1989 the Irish Office of Public Works wrote to the state solicitor seeking a ban on the *Searcher*.

Because resistance to Irish law persists, Dr Kelly hopes the issue will be raised at the forthcoming Anglo-Irish conference. He wants a cultural agreement whereby material which has been proved to have been illegally exported must be returned without any arguments.

## Memorabilia

### Any old iron lady?

JUST as the demise of great public figures is often followed by their apotheosis, souvenirs in their name soon become sought-after collectables. The problem with Margaret Thatcher is that her personality has never been of much inspiration to this particular industry. Followers preferred to demonstrate their loyalty in different ways than by buying tea services decorated with Mrs Thatcher's face.

But apart from signed photographs, which retail at about £30, the rare tributes such as the Staffordshire caricature jugs and mugs produced in the mid-Eighties are undulating, featuring a meat-cleaver nose. The current favourite is a rubber Spitting Image puppet on sale at Hamleys and motorway service stations for £1.99.

The lack of supplies is good news for anyone who actually did collect souvenirs during Mrs Thatcher's 11 and a half years as prime minister. As her contribution becomes more apparent, they could, find they are sitting on lasting national assets.

Whoever paid the paltry £3 for a caricature mug at Bonhams auctioneers in London back in 1988 should perhaps increase his house insurance, as should the buyer of the £40 kitsch candleholder



Market force at Longleat: the Marquess of Bute with part of his collection of Thatcherware

featuring Mrs Thatcher and Arthur Scargill at loggerheads, and he who paid £38 for a bone chime mug bearing pictures of David Steel, James Callaghan and Mrs Thatcher, after the 1979 general election.

Ironically, items produced in passionate opposition to Mrs Thatcher's policies, such as miners' strike mugs produced in south Wales in 1984, could become the best investments of all. The mugs, featuring images of young families and images at the pit head, carried slogans asking for Britain's support. Such mugs might take some finding, but their price is currently low.

The big question is whether Thatcher memorabilia will

take its place alongside that of Churchill, whose commemorative bulldogs and character mugs far outstrip the market performance of any other 20th century politician, with prices rising to £2,000. In her favour, Mrs Thatcher has the duration of her premiership, her long string of battles, both abroad and against the "enemy within", and the fact that she was the first woman prime minister. Suffragette memorabilia sells at a premium, and Mrs Thatcher memorabilia may enter that category.

Still, Mrs Thatcher has inspired many more commemorative tributes than Edward Heath, whose only tribute, according to Eric Knowles of

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TENEBRA, 100 Shaftesbury Avenue

## BRIEFING

## THEATRE: NEW YORK

## Cannons on the square

RUSSIAN celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Tchaikovsky's birth reach a clangorous climax in Leningrad next Saturday. A star-packed concert includes Jeremy Norman (never seen in the Soviet Union before), Izak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, the Leningrad Philharmonic — and the ultimate performance of Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture. The mayor of Leningrad, Anatoly Sobchak, has agreed to close the Square of the Artists for the evening so that, while the orchestra plays 1812 in the adjacent hall, outside there will be a cacophony of cannons, fireworks and all the church-bells in the city. The American TV producer Peter Gelb is responsible for this extravaganza, which will be broadcast to three continents.

## The big sleep

LOOKING for a different sort of Christmas gift? Try the video that is released next week: *John and Yoko's Montreal Bed-In* of 1969. The video discreetly edits that famous piece of history — from seven days to 75 minutes — but does include visits by Timothy Leary and other humanitarians of that idealistic age.



Yoko Ono and John Lennon

## Sidehead

THE 500th anniversary of Columbus's voyage to America in 1492 is causing great friction in the film business. In one corner are Alexander and Ilya Salkind, the father-and-son producers responsible for the *Superman* movies. They have been planning their Columbus movie for Universal Studios (scripted by *The Godfather* writer, Mario Puzo) since 1985, and are in cahoots with the Spanish quincentenary authorities over the building of a replica fleet of 15th-century ships. In the other corner (and now the target of a \$40-million law suit from the Salkind faction) is the director Ridley Scott and his Columbus film project. Scott was originally approached by Salkind and Salkind to direct their film. They split four months later, by which time (the Salkinds claim) the English director had had access to "confidential documents".

## Another chance...

BUOYED by her recent triumph at the Dominion Theatre, Shirley MacLaine is bringing her song, dance and chat show back to Britain in the spring. It will return to the Dominion Theatre (February 12 to 17), then visit the Apollo, Manchester (February 19-20) and the Playhouse, Edinburgh (February 22-23).

ON MONDAY  
Geoff Brown on the discoveries of the London Film Festival; and Harry Eyres on the English Shakespeare Company tour

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## Shipwrecked in Times Square

As the monumental *Shogun* takes a critical pasting, Charles Bremner assesses the odds stacked against the big-budget new musical surviving the casino economics of Broadway

If the shades of Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers or any of the old showmen are around New York this season, they must be wondering what happened to the verve and originality that was once the hallmark of the Broadway musical. For a start, they would probably check their calendar, since most of the American-made shows on the Great White Way, from last year's *Gypsy* and *Grand Hotel* to David Merrick's lavish new reworking of Gershwin's *Oh Kay!* hark back to reassuring, gentler times. Topol is even appearing again in a new staging of his 1964 role in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and a revived *Peter Pan* is due by Christmas.

But for the saddest glimpse of the state of their own art, they would look no further than the Marquis, the plush 1980s theatre-within-a-hotel that dominates the wasteland of hustlers, muggers and tourists that is now Times Square. This is the venue for *Shogun — the Musical*, the only brand-new American production this year. It is a behemoth replete with 75 tons of computer-driven scenery and a cost of \$38 million dollars (£24.1 million), all conceived America's answer to the British invasion.

"If you can't beat 'em, join 'em," seems to have been the producers' credo as they hammered together all the ingredients to be found in the blockbusters of Lloyd Webber and Jean-Michel Schonberg, the fathers of Broadway's biggest money-earners of the past few years. Bad luck dogged the project from its beginnings eight years ago, when James Clavell first thought of putting his epic novel of ancient Japan on the musical stage. After a disastrous run in Washington, a heavily edited version was struggling through previews in New York when a piece of falling scenery knocked out Philip Casnoff, the American leading man brought in at the last minute to replace Peter Karrie as the English sea-captain who is shipwrecked in Japan in 1958.

If they gave Tony awards for BRAHMS'S B-flat Concerto has customarily been seen as a symphony with piano obbligato. Here, however, it seemed more a piano fantasy with orchestral punctuation, largely because Ju Hee Sub lacked the size of tone and breadth of phrasing to make the solo part a convincing conveyance of orchestral volume. Her brilliance was out of place, and the effect was to counter Brahms's effort to integrate Lisztian devices into a symphonic flow.

The concert took a lift after the interval when Hugh Wolff introduced a work by his fellow American, Gerald Levinson. Belonging to the last generation of Messiaen pupils, Levinson has boldly followed his teacher into adapting, and sometimes even adapting, the sounds, scales, rhythms and time sense of Asian musical cultures. This work, *Anahata*, has a Tantric title, and

## CONCERT

CBSO/Welff  
Town Hall,  
Birmingham

apparently includes at least one musical reminiscence from the Himalayas, besides having a clear-cut sonic magnificence that might (as with Messiaen) suggest mountain landscapes. But perhaps its predominant connection is with the music of Béla, which Levinson has studied on the spot.

The orchestra includes a tuned percussion section of tubular bells, celesta, piano and so on, a section which is as important as any other. Moreover, the music is distinctly layered, as in Balinese, or indeed western medieval style, with bass lines moving slowly and treble parts racing. Yet these essentially

Japanese politics and British-style pop: Francis Ruyivari as the warlord Toronaga in *Shogun — the Musical*, which has faced press attacks

"Trump casino edition" of *The King and I*, the earthquake remastered edition of *Godzilla* and the Portuguese Jesuits and other villains "all seem to be refugees from a Gilbert and Sullivan tour of the provinces."

Even for a non-specialist correspondent making an effort to keep an open mind, it was near impossible to make sense of the byzantine plot, in which much of the huge cast is sliced to shreds in battle or by *seppuku* (ritual suicide). And given the sombreness with which the show takes itself, it is hard not to giggle at lines such as "Saké is good for you/So much better than *seppuku*", or the refrain from "Born to be Together", the show's big love-song: "One part you, one part me." At moments, it seemed as if the Moony Python crew had been paid \$8 million to have fun in a New York theatre.

The critical demolition may not

kill *Shogun*, since word of mouth and heavy television advertising often override bad reviews when it comes to the big spectacles on which Broadway increasingly depends for its livelihood. Not all is gloom by any means this year. *Assassins*, a new Sondheim about the lives of famous murderers, is opening in the New Year; several high quality plays, such as *Six Degrees of Separation*, are drawing good audiences; even Shakespeare still sells when played by such names as Dustin Hoffman.

Off-Broadway is doing well and, in a symptom of the nostalgia born of recession, cabaret is once again popular in the city's night clubs and restaurants. But when it comes to the musical, the romantic and stylish genre that was born in New York, huge costs are narrowing the options for producers. They can revive safe old favourites like *Oh Kay!*, simulate nostalgia with look-alikes of old hits such as *City of Angels*, import pre-fabricated transatlantic hits

like this season's *Buddy* and the forthcoming *Miss Saigon*, or fight back with the technodazzle of such works as *Shogun*.

Only one in four productions merely breaks even. With the costs of some musicals reaching the level of film production, it can take years before hits turn a clear profit. "Now you are a big hit overnight or you close down," said Rocco Landesman, president of the Jujamcu chain, one of the three companies which own most Broadway theatres. Some would-be blockbusters are so contrived that they never even reach Broadway. This was the case with *Annie II*, the long-awaited sequel scrapedin the provinces by producers who felt the risk of a New York production did not justify the price. They are still working on another version. Elizabeth McCann, a producer of *Orpheus Descending, Elephant Man* and *Amadeus*, lamented to the *New York Times* recently that there was little room left for innovation:

"We must start with the assumption that the audience is dumb."

Over the past year or so, the theatre-owners and producers have been working on alternatives to the casino-like economics of Broadway. Last summer the unions, producers and owners agreed on a two-tier system in which everyone would work for reduced rates at three Broadway theatres as a way of encouraging new plays. Musicals do not qualify for the arrangement.

Other producers are trying to promote first-rate shows at suburban venues. The venerable Hal Prince, for example, is working with an enterprise called New Musicals at the State University of New York (SUNY). A show there with top flight cast will cost about a quarter of what it would on Broadway. "I love Broadway," Prince said. "I just don't like the way it is now." One of SUNY's new productions, *The Secret Garden*, is being tipped as a likely Broadway smash for next year.

to the *Don Quixote* excerpt, partnering Jayne Regan's secure Kuri.

Particularly attractive is the duet from Bournonville's *Flower Festival at Genzano*. It is given in a more authentic version than we sometimes see (the producing hand of Vivi Flindt, who also staged *The Lesson*, is detectable) and danced with both charm and panache by Joanne de Souza and Stephen Walther.

Several of these dancers and others who share the roles, are either new to the company or newly brought to prominence. Thus programme represents the best results yet seen from Christopher Gable's wish to develop young talent, besides being entertaining in its own right, with a specially lavish decor by Peter Doherty for the Offenbach gaiety

JOHN PERCIVAL

## DANCE

Northern Ballet  
Orchard, Dartford

*Amorous*, to Carl Davis's arrangement of music by Offenbach, provides a contrasting mood at the other end of the evening. Between these, the programme ambiguously offers no fewer than four classic duets in varied styles — more varied, in fact, than the programme credits suggest, since the romantic episode from *Swan Lake* has choreography by Ivanov, not Petipa. The latter is represented by two numbers both much adapted over the years. Lorena Vidal and William Walker give a good account of themselves in the show-piece from *The Corsair*, and Peter Parker brings a certain dash

to the *Don Quixote* excerpt, partnering Jayne Regan's secure Kuri.

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## How the stories became a mediocre menagerie

## THEATRE

Just So  
Tricycle, Kilburn

under his skin. But then they reconcile the combatants, spuriously turning hatred into propaganda for friendship. Along with courage, responsibility and much else, that is one of the virtues learned by the Elephant's Child. The chum is implausibly (and disastrously) rescued from the Leopard, Linzi Hateley's wan, timid Kokoloko Bird, ends up similarly educated.

Yet this bland didacticism does not sink a show often good to watch and hear. Mike Ockrent has not given his cast whiskers, animal masks or other zoological fixtures. In his production, they might have stumbled from Kensington market, having grabbed feathers, frilly striped cocktail dresses, tattered jackets, and surped pyjama tops for trousers.

Combined with simple decor — a makeshift tree stuck here, vines, fronds and (warily) Japanese parasols dangling there — this gives the show an informal, improvised

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

Plowright's progress

"There is something regal about Miss Joan Plowright, in the lift of her head and the set of her mouth — but the impression is subverted by her posh-northern voice. You suddenly realise whom she reminds you of the Queen Mother as redone by Mollie Sugden on *Spitting Image*."

John Walsh, in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

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## BBC 1

7.00 Crystal Tipts and Alister. Cartoon about a girl and her dog (7.05) *Jenoch's Story Time*, Cartoon (7) 7.30 Paddington Peas, Cartoon (7) 7.35 Babar. Classic cartoon adventures of the famous elephant 8.00 Breakfast Serials. Six different serials with all the characters played by Caroline Berry, John Biggs, Lucy Jenkin and William Pettie 8.35 *BraveStar* (7)

9.00 Going Live. Sarah Greene and Philip Schofield present the children's magazine, with Sophie Lawrence scouring the nation for young talent, cartoons plus guests Elton John and Linda Hartley who plays Kenny in *Neighbours* 12.12 Weather

12.15 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lyman. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.20 Cricket: highlights of the second day's play in the first Test in Brisbane between Australia and England. 12.40 1.10 and 1.45 Racing from Newbury; 12.55 News; 1.00 and 4.15 Snooker: fifth round action in the Stomessell UK professional championships from the Guild Hall, Preston. 1.25 and 4.00 Rallying: the Mobil 1 rally challenge, round five, from the Isle of Man. 2.10 Rugby Union: live coverage of the third and decisive game in the British and Welsh series between Great Britain and Australia from Elland Road, Leeds. 4.40 Final Score

5.05 News with Muriel Stuart. Weather

5.15 Regional news and sport. Wales (to 6.05) Wales on Saturday



Shelley Long and Tom Henke (8.15pm)

10.05 Ben Elton: *The Man from Auntie*. The man with the scarcely realistic view of life returns with sarcasm from his first series (7)

10.35 Snooker. David Vines introduces action from the closing frames of today's two fifth round matches in the Stomessell UK championships, from the Guild Hall, Preston

11.50 Film: *Film Up the Zinc* (1972). Frankie Howard, Zoo Zee Gobin and Bill Fraser star in a feebly first world war romp about a reluctant soldier. Private Lurk (Howard), who has a German master plan tattooed on his backside. Directed by Richard Benjamin (Cecilie)

9.45 News with Michael Buerk. Sport and weather

## BBC 2

9.00 Open University: *Design or Decline* 9.25 For Trading 9.50 So You Want To Be a Better Manager? 10.15 Mental Handicap: *Finding a Voice* 10.40 Science Preparatory Maths Algebra

10.55 Holiday Outings: *Day Mirror* journalist John Diamond flies over New York in a helicopter (7) 11.05 *Pittfalls of a Sporting Life*. How supervised sport can help recovery after a heart attack (7)

11.20 Below the Line. Sue Beardsmore takes a trip in a hot air balloon across the Medina. Interspersing her leisurely journey, she samples Malmesbury Whisky from the spring at Malmesbury's Holy Well and stops off at Derbyshire to visit one of the two original Bakewell pudding shops before landing in Cromford, the site of Arkwright's mill. Moving on to the Vale of Evesham, the crew meet embroiderer and pre-maker Tilly Holt for an "at home" on Bradon Hill and then travel through the evening slopes to land on the water-meadows near Tewkesbury's ancient abbey (7)

11.50 The Honeymoons (b/w). Vintage American comedy starring Jackie Gleason and Art Carney

12.15 Film: *The Unexpected* (1947, b/w). The story of a radio personality and criminologist whose life seems to be littered with as many deaths as the radio show about murder mysteries he hosts. Claude Rains plays the broadcaster and projects a sinister and intimate picture of a man deeply fascinated by the minds of criminals and murderers. Psychological thriller which promises more than it delivers, smoothly directed by Michael (Casablanca) Curtiz

1.55 Discoveries Underwater. Compelling look at underwater archaeology. Tim Piggott-Smith narrates this look at the technology

which located the wreck of the USS Monitor, an American civil war battleship (Cecilie)

2.45 Mahabharat. Episode 28 of the 91-pankhanamisation of India's great epic poem in Hindi with English subtitles

3.25 Film: *The Enchanted Cottage* (1945, b/w). Blend and sentimental tale of a charming, quasi-magical cottage which works its power over two alienated individuals so that they fall in love with one another. The tale of unrequited love then turns to destroy the Arcadian idyll, but the final outcome is never in doubt. Robert Young plays the scamed soldier and Dorothy McGuire the woman with whom he falls in love. Directed by John Cromwell

4.55 Snooker. Reports and action from the Stomessell UK championship at the Guild Hall, Preston. David Vines introduces the coverage and Ted Lowe, Jack Kershaw and Clive Everton provide the commentary

6.00 Late Again. Highlights from last week's *The Late Show*

6.45 News/View with Muriel Stuart and Lynne Lithgow. Weather

7.30 *The Ring of the Nibelung*. *Giötterdämmerung*, Act 1. Edward Said, writer and professor of comparative literature at Columbia University, introduces the prologue and first act of *Giötterdämmerung* in the production by Nikolaus Lehnhoff with Wolfgang Sawallisch conducting the Bavarian State Opera Chorus. It is the tale of the struggle for the magical ring stolen by the dwarf Alberich from the waters of the Rhine. Siegfried has killed the dragon, captured the ring and penetrated the wall of fire to win Brünnhilde. The curse of the ring, however, has still to be fully worked out and the Norns' rope of life is about to break permanently

9.45 Saturday Night Cliffs. Clive James takes another cutting look at the sillier offerings of international television, directed by Kenzo Shindo. Ends at 2.05

helped by satellite guests and the American comedian Dennis Miller in the studio

10.30 Peers on a Willow Tree. The second of a disenchanted two-part documentary on the post of post-communist Poland, made by emigre Witold Stachurski. Though the breakdown of the communist rule enjoyed large support, some see the inevitable result as a breakdown in social order. Much of the country's economic life is in ruins and the patience of the population is becoming strained. With western-style capitalism increasingly being adopted, thousands are finding themselves jobless as industries are privatised. On the day the presidential elections are to be held, Stachurski's film tries to assess the Polish people's chances of running the country for themselves. 11.20 Twin Peaks. Episode five of David Lynch's cult American whodunit, which has soon built a large following here with weekly audiences of more than eight million. Starring Kyle McLachlan, Michael Ontkean, Piper Laurie and Russ Tamblyn (7). (Cecilie)

12.20 Film: *Onibaba* (1964, b/w) starring Nobuko Otowa, Setsuko Yamashita and Kei Sato. Japanese tale of honor and the supernatural set in medieval times in which two women survive a war by selling amours they have stripped from soldiers. When the younger woman falls in love, the other is driven wild with jealousy and starts to wear a lewdly mask in an attempt to hurt the young lover. One day, however, she finds that she cannot remove it from her face. Original and visually stunning, the film benefits from the claustrophobic atmosphere of the body-high needs among which the women live, and from the well-handled eroticism. Directed by Kenzo Shindo. Ends at 2.05

## SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am Cricket: *The Ashes*. Tour Live. Continued coverage of England v Australia in the first Test from Brisbane. 7.00 Cricket Highlights 7.30 *Factory 7* 8.00 *The Sunday* 8.20 9.00 2000 1.00 *Chopper Squad* 2.00 *WWEF Wrestling Challenge* 3.00 *Three Amazing Animals* 4.00 *Eight to Enough* 5.00 *Top 10 8.00* The Love Boat 6.00 *Summer Special* 8.00 *Saturday Night Fever* 8.30 *Top 10 10.00* Superstars of Wrestling 11.00 Cricket. The Ashes Tour Live. Australia v England in the third day's play of the first Test

## SKY NEWS

News on the hour. 5.30 *Worldline* 6.30 *The Reporters* 6.30 *Football* 6.40 *World Sport* 6.50 *Frank Bough This Week* 7.00 *Cricket* 7.30 *Frank Bough This Week* 1.30 *Fashion TV* 2.30 *Frank Bough This Week* 3.30 *Football* 4.00 *Report* 5.00 *Motor Sports News* 5.30 *Football* 5.50 *Frank Bough This Week* 7.00 *Report* 6.00 *Motor Sports News* 10.30 *Frank Bough This Week* 12.30am *Frank Bough This Week* 1.30

Those Were the Days 2.30 Target 4.30 Those Were the Days

## SKY MOVIES

8.00am *Shock Treatment* (1951). A couple's deteriorating marriage is broadcast in a documentary style to an enthusiastic audience

10.00 *Yojo Bear and the Magic Flight of the Spruce Goose*. Arrested into 12.00 *Adam's Rib* (1949). Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn are involved in a courtship on opposite sides

2.00pm *Loca and the Outlaws* (1935). John Tarrant leads a rebellion on an alien planet

4.00 *The White Slave* (1939). Michael Cheever investigates the secrets of the son of the *Rescue* (1937). Cheever sets out to rescue their air force officers, shot down over North Korea

7.00 *Loca and the Outlaws* (1935). The *Rescue* (1937). Cheever discovers that he's sold his girlfriend to white slave traders

8.40 *Top 10*

10.00 *Top Ten*. *Summer* (1969). Michael Caine stars as two former high-school chums caught up in drug-dealing, romance and murder

11.55 *Blue Angel* (1930). A young woman jeopardises everything when she agrees one night of passion with Eric Angel

1.30am *Desire Lower 1969*. A young woman undergoes sex therapy after a violent attack

4.00 *Review of the Nudes*: *2 Nudes* (1969). *8.00* *Summer Special*

EUROSPORT

6.00am *Sport 7.30 As It Was* 9.00 *A Day at the Beach* 10.00 *Top 12.00 Track Challenge* 12.30pm *Europcar's Saturday PGA Golf*. *1.30pm* *Europcar's Saturday PGA Golf*. *2.30pm* *Europcar's Saturday PGA Golf*. *3.30pm* *Europcar's Saturday PGA Golf*. *4.00pm* *Europcar's Saturday PGA Golf*. *5.30pm* *Europcar's Saturday PGA Golf*. *6.00pm* *Europcar's Saturday PGA Golf*. *7.00pm* *Europcar's Saturday PGA Golf*. *8.00pm* *Europcar's Saturday PGA Golf*. *9.00pm* *Europcar's Saturday PGA Golf*. *10.00pm* *Europcar's Saturday PGA Golf*. *11.00pm* *Europcar's Saturday PGA Golf*. *12.00am* *Europcar's Saturday PGA Golf*

SCREENTIME

9.00am *Democracy* 7.00 *USA Today* 8.00 *News* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.00 *TV Times* 12.00 *TV Times* 1.00 *TV Times* 2.00 *TV Times* 3.00 *TV Times* 4.00 *TV Times* 5.00 *TV Times* 6.00 *TV Times* 7.00 *TV Times* 8.00 *TV Times* 9.00 *TV Times* 10.00 *TV Times* 11.0



# Navy enquiry ordered after submarine sinks trawler

By KERRY GILL

THE government yesterday admitted that a Royal Navy submarine dragged a Scottish fishing boat to the seabed with the loss of four lives in the Firth of Clyde, and ordered immediate inquiries into the accident.

Archie Hamilton, the defence minister, who issued an emergency statement on the accident, told the House of Commons that wreckage found at Aran was that of the Carradale fishing boat Aran.

She sank within seconds after her fishing gear was caught by the nuclear-powered submarine HMS Trenchant early on Thursday, in what Mr Hamilton described as a freak accident.

George Foukes, Labour MP for Carkick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, attacked as "ignorant and complacent" Mr Hamilton's description of the sinking. He said Labour would step up the cam-

paign for bleepers to be fitted to fishing boats to warn submarines.

Mr Foukes added: "One of the crucial questions is why there was a delay between the incident and the start of a rescue operation. Was this the result of the navy trying to pretend that a submarine was not involved?"

Ray Michie, Liberal Democrat MP for Argyll and Bute, and Brian Wilson, Labour MP for Cunningham North, demanded that submarine exercises in the area be stopped.

Mr Hamilton said: "The crew of Trenchant and the entire submarine community are, I know, shocked and deeply saddened." He said that inquiries had been ordered by the transport department and the Royal Navy. The navy will investigate the accident and whether there was a delay in raising the coastguard. The coastguard said the first signal came from Faslane at 4.10am, about two hours after the incident.

Underwater cameras identified the wreckage of the Aran about 120 metres down on the seabed. Patrick Stewart, secretary of the Clyde Fishermen's Association, said: "The reaction by fishermen to this tragedy is one of deep shock tinged by anger that this should have happened." All 17 fishing boats based at Carradale joined the search for the bodies.

Mr Hamilton said the Trenchant, presently based at Faslane on the Gare Loch, had surfaced as soon as it was apparent it might have snagged fishing gear.

He said submarines had operated in the area for more than 50 years with "an excellent safety record".

Crews were always vigilant for fishing vessels. "I believe that our record and our safety procedures are excellent, but we will look carefully at the results of both enquiries to see what lessons can be learned," said Mr Hamilton.

The crew were named as James Russell, aged 33, the skipper, William Martindale, aged 24, and Douglas Campbell, aged 20, all of Carradale; Kintyre, and Stuart Campbell, aged 33, of Campbelltown, Kintyre.

Hidden menace, page 3

## Shooting of PC angers federation

By STEWART TENDERLE

CRIME CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of Britain's 120,000 police force may call on the government to arm them after the latest in a series of gun attacks on officers which yesterday left a Manchester constable seriously injured. PC Ransford Smith, aged 31, was shot in the face and chest when a police patrol stopped a car in Salford.

As PC Smith lay seriously ill in hospital, the Police Federation raised the prospect of a call for all officers to be armed. Until now the federation, representing junior officers, has opposed the general arming of the police, wishing them to retain their unarmed traditions, and has lobbied for the reinstatement of the death penalty.

PC Smith, a probationary officer, was shot late on Thursday night as he got out of his car near a public house. The other officer in the patrol car was not hurt. Police said a man was being questioned and another was being sought.



Amazing ways: three legendary English figures — King Henry VIII and Lewis Carroll's Wonderland inventions, Alice and the Mad Hatter — help launch the "Year of the Maze", the English Tourist Board's official theme for 1991, in the maze at Hever Castle, Kent

## Leadership trio pledge poll tax reform

Continued from page 1

confrontation moved into its critical phase. He based his appeal on social responsibility and public service. In response to the critics who point to his lack of experience in an economic ministry, Mr Hurd emphasised the need for "sound money" policies to continue. Mrs Thatcher had put economics back in the realm of common sense.

Mr Major promised to turn Britain into a truly classless

society. He laid stress on the need to improve educational standards and boost the status of the teaching profession and suggested that future tax cuts should be concentrated on low earners.

Mr Heseltine's camp was fighting to prevent any erosion of his first round vote of 152, claiming he was best placed to win the next election.

Meanwhile, Conservative Central Office has been swamped with

outraged calls from party members protesting at the removal of Mrs Thatcher, who yesterday received a personal message from President Gorbachev.

Leonti Zamyatin, the Soviet ambassador who delivered the message, read an extract saying: "Mr Gorbachev has no doubt that as a political leader, Mrs Thatcher has made an enormous contribution to both Great Britain and the world community at large."

# Mandela to press for formation of interim regime

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

WITH harsh words being traded between the South African government and the African National Congress (ANC), their respective leaders have scheduled private talks next week in an attempt to resolve differences which are delaying negotiations on a new constitution.

Tough talking is anticipated when President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president, meet on Tuesday amid mutual recriminations over political violence said to be the worst in South Africa's history.

Ministers accuse the ANC of trying to derail negotiations. Gert Viljoen, Pretoria's chief negotiator, said: "The ANC's seriousness and commitment to peace are open to question."

Trevor Manuel, an ANC spokesman, responded that Pretoria was using prisoners as hostages to force the organisation to abandon mass action.

An attempted coup in the Transkei homeland has meant strained relations between its military ruler and Pretoria. After putting down the insurrection by a former second-in-command, General Bantu Holomisa accused South Africa of involvement, a charge swiftly and angrily denied by R.F. "Pik" Botha, the foreign minister.

The general has established close relations with the ANC, and in particular with Chris Hani, the chief of staff of its armed wing.

## Junior doctors 'prepared to take industrial action'

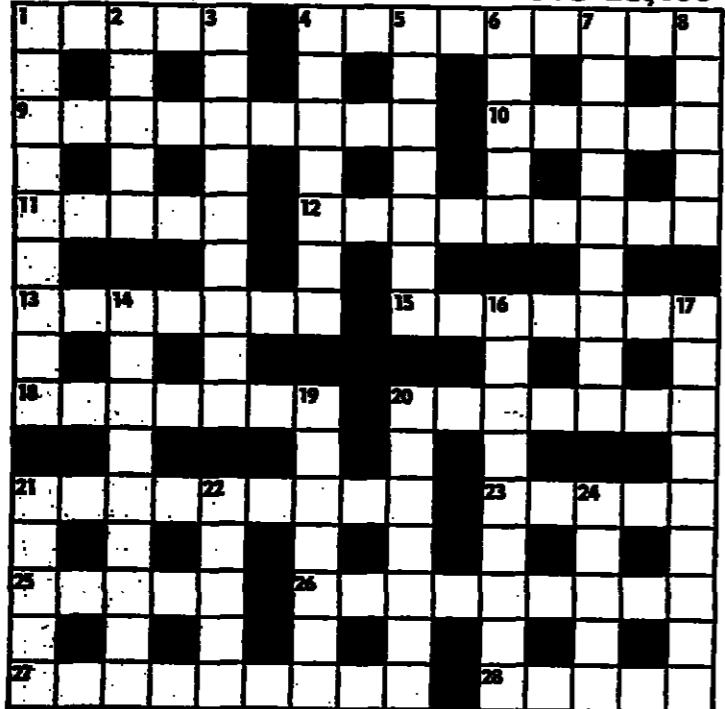
By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

ONE in two junior doctors would be prepared to take industrial action in support of shorter working hours, according to a British Medical Association survey.

The survey, published yesterday, will be used to put further pressure on the government to agree to a 72-hour week with shift working patterns backed by 1,500 extra consultant posts. If, at a crucial meeting on December 17, ministers fail to pledge more resources to reduce hours, junior doctors may be officially balloted over industrial action.

More than 50 per cent of the association's 23,000 junior members responded to the questionnaire survey. Ninety-six per cent said they would be willing to take action of some kind, such as

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,460



**ACROSS**  
 1 Loiter about in Low Church assembly (5).  
 4 Mate with lute is a constituent of Dresden (5,4).  
 9 Sort of comedy hit you have to endure (9).  
 10 Many are going back to a long dress (5).  
 11 Fasted back a tropical plant (5).  
 12 One can age, not disheartened, like Nanki-Poo as a minstrel (9).  
 13 It comes between the chest and abdomen among the Berber people (7).  
 14 Going down, a mountainous confection (7).  
 15 Grumbles from the tow's when Jack leaves (7).  
 20 Rook is part of powerful-omen (7).  
 21 Putting in prison with grave ceremony (9).  
 23 Cut out dried fruit (5).  
 25 The spirit, that's left is to prop up a Russian leader (5).  
 26 From the Scala, toro's song transports us (9).  
 27 Is he in order to build for nothing? (9).  
 28 A little tobacco for the turnkey (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,454

**LAUNCHED VAGABOND**  
 1 GO AHEAD  
 2 LOOK GASTIGATE  
 3 SILENTIA  
 4 GATHER STALWART  
 5 HEN RAYN  
 6 AORTA EXTRACTED  
 7 C D S D A  
 8 DESPERADO MORON  
 9 U D N I E G  
 10 TIRE SOME STIFLE  
 11 O C C I A T R R  
 12 PREFERRED IDAHO  
 13 J O N A Z N I U  
 14 CONCEAL ENGINES

**PARKER DUOFOLD**  
 A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

**SNOWDROP**  
 a. To steal underclothes  
 b. An advertising campaign  
 c. To sniff cocaine  
**ERUPTMENT**  
 a. With a big backside  
 b. Breaking out  
 c. Erosion  
**SPICCATO**  
 a. Half staccato  
 b. An Italian term  
 c. An embroiderer's needle  
**EROSE**  
 a. A wedding race  
 b. A hot alcoholic drink  
 c. Curt and unamorous

Answers on page 15

## TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

**Greater London** 701  
**Kent, Surrey, Sussex** 702  
**Dorset, Hants & IOW** 703  
**Devon & Cornwall** 704  
**West, Gloucs, Avon, Som** 705  
**Beds, Bucks, Oxon** 706  
**Northants, Northants & Northants** 707  
**Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs** 708  
**West, Mid & Sth Gloucs & Gwent** 709  
**Shrops, Herefs & Warks** 710  
**Central Midlands** 711  
**Nottinghamshire** 712  
**Lincoln & Humberside** 713  
**Yorks & Powys** 714  
**Gwynedd & Chwyd** 715  
**NW England** 716  
**W & S Yorks & Dales** 717  
**NE England** 718  
**Central & Lake District** 719  
**S W Scotland** 720  
**West Central Scotland** 721  
**Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders** 722  
**E Central Scotland** 723  
**Grampian & Highlands** 724  
**N W Scotland** 725  
**Caithness, Orkney & Shetland** 726  
**N Ireland** 727

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadwork information, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 407 followed by the appropriate code.

**London & SE traffic, roadworks**  
 C London (within N & S Circs) 731  
 Mways/roads M4-M1 732  
 Mways/roads M1-Darford T- M23 733  
 Mways/roads M25 734  
 M25 London Orbital only 735

**National traffic and roadworks**

West Country 737  
 Wales 738  
 Midlands 739  
 East Anglia 741  
 North-West England 742  
 North-East England 743  
 Scotland 744  
 Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

**The winners of last Saturday's competition are: P M Stringer, Henleaze, Bristol; E D Clague, Trowbridge, Wiltshire; Douglas, Isle of Man; S Auckland, Marsh Lane, Shepley, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire; J Boat, Mawson Road, Taunton, Somerset; H Greenfield, Oakdale Court, Downend, Bristol.**

Concise crossword, page 15

## WEATHER

**South-east England** will start dull and wet but clearer weather over the south-west will spread. There will be some sunshine and heavy showers too. Wales, the Midlands, East Anglia and more southern counties of northern England will have a dull, rainy day. The border counties and southern Scotland will have some sun and a few showers, but northern Scotland will be mostly wet. **Outlook:** cold with showers.

## ABROAD

**METDAY:** (a) thunder; (b) drizzles; (c) fog; (d) rain; (e) snow; (f) rain; (g) rain; (h) rain; (i) rain; (j) rain; (k) rain; (l) rain; (m) rain; (n) rain; (o) rain; (p) rain; (q) rain; (r) rain; (s) rain; (t) rain; (u) rain; (v) rain; (w) rain; (x) rain; (y) rain; (z) rain.

**AROUND BRITAIN**

**Sea State:** 1 Moderate; 2 High; 3 Very High; 4 Extreme; 5 Catastrophic.

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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 24 1990

THE TIMES

27

- SPORT 27-433
- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 34-39
- WEEKEND MONEY 40-44

## SUMMARY Driving force



PENTTI Arikkala (above), of Finland, starts the Lombard RAC Rally at Harrogate tomorrow seeking to repeat his success of last year. Driving a Ford Sierra Cosworth, he leads the field into the toughest event of the British motor sport calendar.

This year, the rally has been cut to four days and the 180 competitors have been allowed to study the stages in advance, part of a new format designed to make the event more competitive than ever.

Preview Page 30

## BOXING

### Bout of nerves

HEROL Graham, the British middleweight, has possibly his last chance to win a long overdue world title tonight when he meets Julian Jackson, of the Virgin Islands, in Spain.

Preview Page 32

## RACING

### Knight move



VON Cadek, formerly the leading steeplechaser in the United States and now trained by Henrietta Knight (above) in Berkshire, will be among the challengers to Mr Frisk, this year's Grand National and Whitbread Gold Cup winner, in the Hennessy Coopers Gold Cup at Cheltenham this afternoon.

Page 32

## HOCKEY

### Stick question

TWO years ago, Great Britain won the Olympic gold medal. Now, following a succession of poor results, the critics are wondering if all the extensive and expensive training has been worthwhile. Sydney Friskin, Hockey Correspondent, examines the team's problems.

Page 28

## FOOTBALL

### Pain in Spain

AS JOHN Toshack joins the list of British managers sacked in Spain, Colin Addison and Howard Kendall talk about the pressures and the politics of trying to run a club in a foreign country.

Page 29

## GOLF

### Joint effort



ENGLAND'S Mark James (above) and Richard Boxall, held a one-shot lead at the halfway stage in the World Cup of Golf in Florida. James had a 71 and Boxall a 69 to keep them in front of Spain, with the United States a further shot back.

Page 31

## RUGBY UNION

### Wing clipped

LEICESTER'S prospects of upsetting Bath in the third round of the Pilkington Cup have plummeted with the loss of three players, among them Rory Underwood, the England wing. And can such minnows as Spartans, from Gloucester, and High Wycombe swim their way past the bigger fish?

Page 31

# SPORT

## A shop window of delights

DAVID MILLER  
CHIEF SPORTS  
CORRESPONDENT

ists among rugby union's international board (IRB), yet it is the latter which, I believe, in the long term poses an equal threat to the upper level of the union game.

Every sport needs heroes in its shop window. On the domestic scene this autumn, rugby union — the international season for which is in the new year — has no players to catch the imagination of the young in the way that Hanley, Offiah and Schofield, of Britain, and Ettinghausen, Stuart and Menning, of Australia, have done in two riveting matches so far.

Not only rugby union, teetering on the edge of the same amateur/professional precipice as it was in 1985, but also association football should be asking why

rugby league is predominately more exciting and more firmly administered in the modern era than they are.

It should also be noted, simultaneously, that 95 per cent of those playing rugby league are amateur, from Plymouth to Newcastle, with the best of them playing it to a high standard. Dudley Hill, Bradford, recently lost by only six points to Dewsbury's professionals in the preliminary round of the Royal Trophy — and made it a serious rival for youth enlistment, too. You cannot afford to take your eye off the pitch for a moment, whereas at union matches, and at much of soccer, there is regularly time to debate the Tory Party's European economic policy without missing a beat.

The relative figures for the proportion of time during which the ball is in play are rugby league, 75 per cent; soccer (in the recent World Cup), 47 per cent; rugby union, 25 per cent.

It is, of course, the figure for rugby union which allows tens of thousands of comparatively unfit amateur sportspersons to enormously enjoy their Saturday outings, and which conversely makes it so hard for the majority of converts from union to league. It is the reason why so many fail. Jonathan Davies, the former Wales rugby union international, will tell you that the concentration level at league rises three-fold.

The league game, which in public entertainment terms consists of the two-division fully professional Rugby Football League (RFL), has outgrown the northern, old-fashioned George Formby image, epitomised by the commentator of Eddie Waring, with their worn, self-parodying clichés. The game now speaks for itself. There is a view that Waring did help put the game on a national footing, which the previous 70 years had failed to do, while some say that the present television commentators of Ray French, a dual-code international, are too erudite and analytical.

What the present Great Britain-Australia series has done, with a record crowd at Wembley, and full houses for Old Trafford and now

Leeds, is to bring the game to millions of new approving eyes. Here is a sport that clearly knows what it is doing, on and off the field; that manages to be both ferociously hard and exceptionally skilful, and still predominantly sporting.

The RFL is fortunate in having as its chief executive a man whom the Football Association unwisely overlooked in its quest for new leadership; and who wanted the job. David Oxley heads a board of six directors who meet once a week, can quickly take all day to day policy decisions, with only the occasional need to refer to the full council. Three years ago, the council voluntarily stripped themselves of power, and the RFL, with £8 million in sponsorship over the next three years, is a model of how sport should be governed.

Every year the RFL is able to give £250,000 to the amateur body, the British Amateur Rugby League Association, through its foundation, which also receives £160,000 from the Sports Council. With 1,000 schools playing the game, and increasing that number by 100 a year, rugby league today can truly celebrate.

Match preview and teams, page 23



Pass masters: Hanley about to unload to Hampson during the build-up to today's international

## Morris to join England party

By RICHARD STREETON

HUGH Morris, the left-handed Glamorgan opening batsman, was summoned to Australia by England yesterday as a reinforcement until Graham Gooch's infected hand heals.

Morris, aged 27, has practised regularly indoors during the autumn in readiness for the England A tour to Pakistan in early January, for which he is captain.

Gooch hopes to be fit to play by the third week in December. England start a four-day game with Victoria at Ballarat on December 20, which is followed by the second Test in Melbourne on Boxing Day. In case Gooch was still unavailable, England felt it essential to have a fully acclimatised reserve batsman and the team reduced to 13 players from 15.

It is the former which alarms the British Isles diehard conventional-

London on January 7.

A prolific scorer for Glamorgan last summer, Morris came close to being an original selection for Australia. He has only just returned from a short tour to Barbados, which could not have occurred at a better time.

"I received a telephone call from Alan Smith of the Test and County Cricket Board late on Thursday afternoon telling me to prepare myself to fly out," Morris said. "I've been in many countries playing cricket, but never before in Australia.

"Of course I am excited at the prospect of joining the team, but a little nervous after watching much of the first day's play at Brisbane on satellite television."

The uncapped Morris was sympathetic to Gooch, but added: "For me, of course, this is a tremendous personal challenge."

"It's a great shame I'm going there in the circumstances I am because Graham is so important to the England side. He's England's best player at the moment and it would be great for him to be in the side. But I don't want to go

on satellite television."

Morris leaves for Australia tomorrow and will arrive in Adelaide on Tuesday before England start a string of one-day fixtures.

If Gooch recovers as hoped, Morris would return home to captain the A team as originally arranged. They are expected to leave

all that way and just act as cover. I want to play. To play for the full England side in an Ashes series is the pinnacle of any cricketer's career."

But the board spokesman, Peter Smith, stressed: "Hugh has been pulled in for cover only. Even if he hits a rich vein of form in Australia he will go on to captain the A side in Pakistan, unless Graham Gooch does not recover or somebody else is injured."

"Obviously, we are aware of the possibility that Hugh might have to stay in Australia and a new A team skipper appointed, but it hasn't come to that yet."

Morris is only the fourth Glamorgan cricketer, after Parkhouse, McConnon and Jeff Jones, to visit Australia with England.

Two factors contributed to his remarkable advance last summer, when he set several Glamorgan records by finishing with 2,276 runs at an average of 55.51 and scored ten centuries and ten fifties.

The first was his decision during the 1989 season to relinquish the captaincy. He was only 22 and

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Glamorgan's youngest captain in their history when he was appointed in 1986 to lead a far from harmonious team and his own form waned under the responsibility. Morris blamed the cares of office for his loss of form, which also led to technical faults creeping into his play.

These, however, were sorted out during the following winter by Tom Cartwright, the county coach, at the indoor nets at Neath. From the start of last season, Morris's forceful strokes all round the wicket were seen at their best and he scarcely failed all summer.

Morris, who also acknowledges the help Viv Richards gave him, has never ruled out the possibility of returning to county captaincy.

From schooldays, Morris's promise was obvious. He played for the Cardiff club's first XI when 14 and at Blundell's set numerous records. He was only 17 when he first played for Glamorgan in 1981, and was captain of England's under-19 schoolboys

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Four successful British coaches who fell foul of their employers' unreasonable demands

# Tale of Spanish ingratitude

CLIVE WHITE

WHAT do John Toshack, Terry Venables, Howard Kendall and Colin Addison have in common? Answer: they were all British coaches who were successful in Spain and got the sack. If that sounds like a contradiction in terms, that is because it is, rationally having no place in the politics of Spanish football.

Most "failed" expatriates, though, have not only been able to cry all the way to the bank, but have walked straight back into executive employment in Britain. "El Teli" returned to Tottenham Hotspur, Kendall to Everton (via Manchester City), while Ron Atkinson, still fighting Atlético Madrid for compensation in the Spanish courts, at least went back to a better job, at Sheffield Wednesday, than the one he left.

After coaching Real Madrid, it can only be downhill for Toshack, yet the Welshman, one assumes, will not slide too far, possibly just down the other side of the Pyrenees into a remunerative contract with Real Sociedad, his former club. But for someone less celebrated, like Addison, it has been a slippery slope back to the English fourth division.

Since losing his job as coach of Atlético, one of the biggest clubs in Europe, in April of last year, he has found himself back where he started 19 years ago, on the first rung of the managerial ladder, at Hereford. It is a far cry from the Vicente Calderón Stadium in Madrid with its crowds of 70,000; Edgar Street is lucky if it sees more than 2,500.

At Atlético, Addison had Future, the Portuguese international, Manolo and a few Brazilian internationals among others at his disposal. The only future he has now is the YTS label he is forced to lean upon because of injuries. "One adjusts," he said, without a hint of understatement.

What irked him about Atlético was not so much his dismissal, which he long since accepted as an occupational hazard, but the timing of it by Jesus Gil, the club's president and well known despot who, at the last count, had ten



Back where he started: Addison finds himself at Hereford again after losing his job at Atlético Madrid

managerial scalps in 39 months to his name.

"We were halfway through a Spanish cup semi-final and within a couple of points of qualifying for Europe when he sacked me. In England it would probably have got me a three-year contract," Addison said.

It was not Addison's first experience of Spanish ingratitude. Three years earlier, he had taken Celta Vigo from the second division to the first in his first season with the club. Due to his mother's ill health he failed to appear at the club's open day next season and was dismissed.

Addison had originally been No. 2 at Atlético to Atkinson, whose dismissal came as just as much of a shock to him, given that Atlético were third in the league at the time. "We were talking about new signings two days later, he fired me," Atkinson said.

Kendall at least left Atlético Bilbao on more amicable terms, after suffering three

defeats in six days. He received a £125,000 handshake and numerous offers to return to the club any time as a guest.

"They were struggling and they wanted someone to build a young side for the future," Kendall said. "My only problem is that we qualified for Europe in my first season instead of the second."

It must have made a pleasant change for Addison to have the last word earlier this year. Out of work for six months following his dismissal by Atlético, he was asked by Cadiz, one of the perennial strugglers of the Spanish first division, to help them avoid relegation with three months of the season remaining. Addison agreed and Cadiz, needing a point on the last day, stayed up by winning their final four games. But Addison declined an offer to stay on.

"You cannot begin to envisage the daily pressures that there are at clubs like Atlético. Day after day of press con-

ferences and television cover-

ages they want to know what Saturday's score is going to be a week in advance. They want to know why you pointed your finger at a certain player. Why you remonstrated with another — and that's just on training days," Addison said.

If presidents are not interfering with the running of the team, they have other means of letting coaches know what they are thinking.

"With two national daily

sports newspapers, you could read what the president had to say every day. Presidents in Spain also talk to players more than charmen do in England.

It happens on a daily basis particularly when a club has a foreign manager. They ask them their views of the manager and of the tactics being used. It all adds to the pressure," Addison said.

Despite the trials and tribulations experienced by British managers, even since Arthur Penland blazed a trail to the Iberian peninsula some

60-odd years ago, their stock

has remained high. "They value our mental tenacity," he said.

Addison's return to Hereford, where he still has his home, coincided with Ian Bowyer's dismissal as manager, and though he once said he would never return to the club, the offer to become manager and, in time, chief executive, was he left, too good to refuse.

The last time he took charge of Hereford he succeeded

John Charles, perhaps the greatest expatriate of them all, and embarked upon one of the great FA Cup runs of post-war history.

A non-league club then,

Hereford reached the

fourth round after beating

Newcastle United in a replay

on Tuesday. After a good

start to the season by Dennis

Watson — his sending off at

Seaham Park notwithstanding

— he has struggled recently to

keep his best form.

Matthew, a midfield player, and Graham Stuart, a forward, are

included in a squad of 17.

Beasant returns after missing

four games with a broken finger

and concedes that Kevin Hitchcock is unfortunate to his loss.

"I spoke to Kevin and told

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The trouble with being a goalkeeper is that there is just one place in the team — other players can swap and change and move into different positions.

The attendance at Old

Tranfield is expected to dip

to 40,000 for the first time

for a League game there this

season. United's last three home

League matches have all been

watched by more than 45,000.

Liverpool, eight points clear

of the field and 17 points ahead

of United, were hardly in need

of the boost they received when John Barnes and Alan Hansen were included in the squad for

the match against Manchester City at Anfield. Hansen, the club captain, has not played a senior game all season.

Kenny Dalglish's comment

that Hansen is in "as good a

condition as anybody who has

been through what he has" did

not tell us a great deal about

Hansen's standard of fitness.

Barnes' chances of playing after

missing three games with a

hamstring injury appear to be

no better than 50-50.

Leeds United seek their fifth

successive win at Coventry, now

managed by Terry Butcher,

who, until ten days ago, ap-

peared to be bound for Elland Road

as a player.

Conscious that it was

his defensive error which prompted

the goal which led to defeat by

Liverpool last week, Butcher has

instructed Dixie McNeil and

Terry Payne, his coaches, to

have no qualms about substituting

him should the need arise.

"I have got to rely on the

honesty of my coaching staff,

Butcher, who is expected to

appear at Ellsworth Town as

his assistant next week, said.

More immediately, he spent

yesterday pondering on how

best to blurt Leeds. He identi-

fied the principal problem as the

midfield. He said: "David Barry

is coming here," Howe said. "The

only way he will get it will be

excellent for the club.

"He will provide a good

balance for me. He won't be my

big star, but he will work alongside me. He's very good at wheel-

dealing and he knows players.

When he comes, the backroom

staff will be complete."

Gould is still on Wimbledon's

payroll after resigning as man-

ager last season. He and Howe

have been friends since their

Arsenal days 20 years ago when

Howe was 21 and Gould 19.

Consequently, he is to be

asked to leave the club.

Eventually, after much

toughing and crossing and

shooting, the law of averages

decreed that Howe must

## Chelsea's decline mystifies manager

By CLIVE WHITE

**S**TORY is not the best of times for Chelsea to come under national scrutiny in the televised match against Manchester United at Old Trafford. Their problems on the pitch are only matched by those off it as Ken Bates, their chairman, fights a desperate rearguard action to safeguard the future of Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea could take some encouragement from the return to the fold of Steve Banks, their England goalkeeper, if it was not for the fact that Banks' absence has not been their problem in recent weeks. Chelsea have registered just one win in nine League games.

One had assumed that a combination of a soft centre in defence and some appalling luck, like that which befell Peter Nicholas in the first minute of last week's match at Wimbledon, would have headed out his own goalkeepers have been primarily responsible. But Bobby Campbell, the Chelsea manager, hinted at other reasons and possible changes yesterday.

"You look around and think, why is this? Some of them might have other things on their mind than playing for Chelsea. But it's in the mind and you can't get to it. It's an awful headache problem, but there do seem to be other distractions," he said.

Kerry Dixon was doubtless one of those who Campbell had in mind. The former England forward had had a £10,000 theft charge hanging over him and is due to come before magistrates again on Tuesday. After a good start to the season by Dennis Watson — his sending off at Selhurst Park notwithstanding — he has struggled recently to

keep his best form. Matthew, a midfield player, and Graham Stuart, a forward, are

included in a squad of 17. Beasant returns after missing

four games with a broken finger and concedes that Kevin Hitchcock is unfortunate to his loss.

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Leeds United seek their fifth

successive win at Coventry, now</p

Stephen Slater explains why greater emphasis will be placed on speed than endurance in this year's Lombard RAC Rally

# Four days of devil take the hindmost

AT EIGHT o'clock tomorrow morning Pentti Arikkala will lead 180 competitors off the starting ramp at Harrogate to set in motion this year's Lombard RAC Rally; four days of competition spread over 1,800 miles that include 41 flat-out, timed special stages.

Arikkala, a 45-year-old Finn, won last year, narrowly beating Carlos Sainz, of Spain, after an astonishing duel in the closing stages. With a mere ten miles remaining, the four-wheel drive system of Sainz's Toyota succumbed to the pounding it had taken at speeds of up to 130mph on rough gravel tracks. With drive only to the front wheels, Sainz was forced to accept second place as Arikkala's Mitsubishi scored a surprise win.

At the start of last year's event, Arikkala was thought to have only an outside chance of victory; he was seeded No. 19 and was the second driver to Ari Vatanen in the Mitsubishi team, which was rallying a new and largely unproven car.

This year, Arikkala is starting from the top, carrying the coveted No. 1 on the side of his new car, an Autoglass-sponsored Ford Sierra Cosworth with the full might of the Ford factory team behind him. He has a strong chance of a repeat victory, though with six world

champions behind him in the top ten starters, the Finn faces the toughest of challenges.

Even before the strength of the field was known, this year's rally was set to be the hardest and fastest yet. A new format has cut a full day out of the schedule and a revised route will allow more competitive miles to take place on the timed special stages with less driving on public roads.

From Harrogate, the rally will initially run through the stately home stages, before moving to the forest tracks of north Yorkshire.

These will be followed by routes through Northumberland, Cumbria and southern Scotland. This year's rally eschews its traditional section through Wales, although the RAC Motorsports Association, which organises the event, has promised that the route will return to Wales next year.

The rally also permits "pace notes", which are made in advance and allow the navigator to read the route ahead to the driver. Both this and the reduction of much of the night-time driving, which had been a feature of the event, has changed the emphasis from a test of endurance to a spectacular battle for speed on the slippery forest tracks.

Those who will benefit the most are the factory-supported teams.

There are 11 manufacturers involved in the event, with giants such as Ford, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Mazda and Lancia each entering up to four of their turbocharged, 300-horsepower, four-wheel drive "supercars" which can be valued at up to £100,000 each.

To keep them running, each team will also employ up to 50 service crew members. They can descend on a stricken car in a remote location and replace major components such as gear boxes in a matter of minutes.

While drivers such as Arikkala and Malcolm Wilson in the factory Ford, Mikl Blasius in the Lancia, Sainz in his Toyota and Vatanen in his Mitsubishi are the spearheads of huge technical and financial operations, the determination and effort of the smaller teams and private entrants is just as great.

The Czechoslovakian Skoda team is aiming to win its class for the eighteenth time in 18 years. Daihatsu is looking for a repeat of its performance last year, when its 1,000cc Charade hatchback earned itself the nickname "the pocket rocker" by dominating its category and beating cars with engines of twice the size. Their battle for class honours is as determined as any at the head of the field.



Man in the cockpit: David Llewellyn, who will be among the leading British challengers in an event usually dominated by Scandinavians

## Leading drivers and their machinery

### Pentti Arikkala (Finland)

Ford Sierra Cosworth  
Aged 45 The winner in 1989 at the wheel of a Mitsubishi, the Finn was snapped up this year by Ford to head their four-car team in the event. Having lived in Berkshire for almost 20 years, he claims that this year might bring a second win by a "British" driver.

### Carlos Sainz (Spain)

Toyota Celica GT4  
Aged 28 The world champion, from Madrid, became the first non-Scandinavian to beat the Finns on their home ground when he won the 1,000 Lakes Rally in August. Mechanical trouble cost him victory last year.

### Juha Kankkunen (Finland)

Lancia Delta Integrale  
Aged 31 Twice world champion, first with Peugeot in 1986 and again with Lancia in 1987 following a victory in the RAC Rally. He was an early leader in last year's event in a Toyota, but has returned to the Lancia camp.

### Massimo Biasion (Italy)

Lancia Delta Integrale  
Aged 32 Potentially the fastest driver in the field, Biasion was world champion in 1986 and 1987 and has won 16 championship events. However, he has not driven in a British rally and remains to be seen whether his usual pace can be maintained in the Yorkshire forests.

### Malcolm Wilson (GB)

Ford Sierra Cosworth  
Aged 34 Britain's highest seeded international rally driver, Wilson may become the first Briton to win the RAC Rally when Gert Cark took it in 1976. Last year, testing from Cumbria, took his two-wheel drive Astra to a fine tenth place.

### Louise Aitken-Walker (GB)

Opel Kadett GSi  
Aged 30 A stirring run of class successes has already clinched her the 1990 women's World Cup title and, despite being one of the finest drivers in the world in terms of overall honours, however, she will be struggling to stay on terms with the turbocharged, four-wheel drive supercars.

### David Llewellyn (GB)

Toyota Celica GT4  
Aged 30 A former British Open rally champion, Llewellyn was one of the fastest runners in the early stages last year before engine problems forced him out.

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Louise Aitken-Walker (GB)

Opel Kadett GSi  
Aged 30 A stirring run of class

successes has already clinched her the 1990 women's World Cup title and, despite being one of the finest drivers in the world in terms of overall honours, however, she will be struggling to stay on terms with the turbocharged, four-wheel drive supercars.

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Toyota Celica GT4  
Aged 30 A former British Open rally champion, Llewellyn was one of the fastest runners in the early stages last year before engine problems forced him out.

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## RUGBY UNION

# Injury-hit Leicester give young Johnson cup chance at Bath

By DAVID HANES, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER'S cup has run over in times past, but yesterday it was overflowing with woe on the eve of their third-round Pilkington Cup tie with Bath, the holders. Having determined to play a broader game than they achieved in the league match with Bath last week, their strike force was eliminated when Rory Underwood went down with influenza and Barry Evans withdrew with a damaged Achilles tendon.

It is no disrespect to their replacements, Peter Sandford and Andy Key, to suggest that they may not be able to fill adequately the boots of the departed England wings. How Leicester must wish they could whisk up Tony Underwood from Cambridge University, but, so close to the university match, the younger Underwood must commit himself to student rugby.

As if that were not enough, Alex Gissing, the lock who damaged ankle ligaments in the 9-3 defeat last week, also withdrew. His replacement is a player that Leicester have been waiting with interest to see: Martin Johnson, an England schools international, who has spent the past two seasons in New Zealand, where he played not only for King Country (which is Colin Meads's country) in the nat-

ional championship, but New Zealand's under-21 side.

Leicester's choice was between Johnson and the experienced Malcolm Foulkes-Arnold, and they have made a positive decision in going for the younger man — and one of whom Bath will know little — though they might have preferred him to resume his senior career in a less significant match. Johnson's last first-team appearance was in April 1989 — against Bath, when both clubs fielded weakened teams and Leicester won.

The mood of the Leicester players in the wake of the league defeat was upbeat, knowing that a cup exit at this early juncture will cast a blight on their season and knowing, too, that there was another match plan for them to follow further away from the Bath pack. That, though, is no longer true: suddenly their back division looks ordinary unless they can find a way of working Liley through the middle.

Bath will not confirm their XV before today, but John Bansey, of their injured trio, is the least likely to play. He left the field at Leicester with a calf injury and has not trained this week; there are various permutations which could be used to fill the centre should he pull out. Stuart Barnes and

John Hall have aches and pains, but it will be a surprise if they miss this game.

Leicester are one of those teams who can rise to the challenge, Barnes said, "but I haven't been on the losing side in a cup match with Bath for six years and I am not going to start now. Leicester have got to come out and play and we believe we can keep them away from our line for long enough."

If Leicester's prospects have been dimmed, Spartans' must surely be non-existent. The Gloucester junior club travel to Oire, who have scored 174 points without reply in their three most recent games, against Northampton, Liverpool St Helens and Newcastle Goforth. Spartans have been practising scrummaging against Gloucester, but by the time Oire have finished with them they will have had as close an acquaintance with the soil as the Red Adams after whom they are nicknamed.

The cup creates a couple of firsts: today, John (born 1873) have never played London Welsh (1885), while Harrogate (1871) have managed to avoid Northampton (1880). Ironically, this was the first season that the Yorkshires have negotiated a fixture with Northampton: they met again in three weeks.

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# ITV companies angry at £4m increase in transmission fees

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ITV companies are angry at a Home Office decision to allow National Transcommunications Ltd, the soon-to-be privatised ITV transmitter network, to charge higher than expected rates while it retains its monopoly of transmission during the next five years.

The annual charge of £61 million, set by the Home Office with Ofcom, the telecommunications watchdog, represents an increase of £4 million over ITV companies' present transmission bills.

Donald Waters, chief executive of

Grampian Television, said he had expected NTL to charge £3 million less than the present transmission rate. He said the £61 million rate would allow NTL an "excessive profit margin" when ITV companies were cutting costs to counter an unprecedented decline in advertising revenue, and a franchise auction of Channel 3 licences would be awarded to the highest cash bidder.

A charge of £57 million would still allow NTL a profit margin of 10 per cent. At £61 million, its profit margin will be 18 per cent.

But the Home Office defended its

decision, saying it had set the 1991 charge after considering projected inflation. "The charge is broadly equivalent to existing transmission costs but we have taken into account what might happen to the inflation rate," a spokesman said. "It was also calculated to ensure NTL got a reasonable return on capital, but we also took account of NTL's low degree of risk given its monopoly."

NTL, created from the engineering division of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, to be replaced by the Independent Television Commission in January, does not lose its monopoly position until 1996 when the BBC is

allowed to offer its transmission services to third parties.

The Home Office spokesman said NTL would also have to keep price rises 1 per cent below the retail price index from 1992 to 1995.

David Shaw, head of the ITV Association, and David McCall, chief executive of Anglia Television, will meet Home Office officials next week to discuss the charge. Mr Waters said NTL was "substantially overstated" and could lose 15-20 per cent of its staff without harming the quality of the transmission service. But an NTL spokesman said more than 200 staff were being cut from

the 1,044 employed by the IBA's engineering division.

• Superchannel, the European satellite broadcaster where Virgin holds a 42 per cent stake, has paid £30 million to acquire the European and Soviet cable and satellite television rights to 100 films and television programmes from the MGM/UA and Pathé libraries.

The satellite company also said it was holding talks with Giancarlo Parretti, head of Pathé Communications, which acquired MGM/UA for \$1.36 billion, about the possibility of MGM taking a minority stake in Superchannel.

News of negotiations with Signor

Parretti comes just two weeks after talks between United Artists and Superchannel broke down. Both parties said they had failed to reconcile "major differences" regarding the long-term funding of the channel.

The Marcucci family, which bought Superchannel two years ago, is understood to want to reduce its 56 per cent stake.

Superchannel, which reaches 23 million homes in Europe and is rebroadcast to a further 18 million homes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, will use the MGM roaring lion trade mark in promoting programmes.

TED BAIN

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.9675 (-0.0023)  
German mark  
2.9227 (+0.0104)  
Exchange Index  
94.3 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1712.2 (+40.0)  
FT-SE 100  
2170.5 (+42.6)  
New York Dow Jones  
2540.59 (+1.23)\*  
Tokyo Nikkei Avg  
Closed  
Closing Prices ... Page 39  
Major indices and  
major changes Page 36

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 1.1%  
3-month libor 1.17% 13.94%  
6-month libor 1.21% 12.12%  
US: Prime Rate 10%  
Federal Funds 7.75%\*  
3-month Treasury Bills 7.03-7.02%  
30-year bonds 10.3% 10.3%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:  
\$ 1.9675  
\$ DM 2.9227  
\$ SWF 2.4761  
\$ FF 9.8572  
\$ Yen 250.37  
£ Index 94.3  
ECU 0.702561  
£ ECU 423383  
£ SDR 67.94  
£ ECU 10.10

GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$380.00 pm \$383.60  
Close \$380.00-\$384.50 (\$195.00-  
195.50)  
New York:  
Comex \$383.30-\$383.80

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) \$30.55 bbl (\$30.00)  
\* Denotes latest trading price

COMMODITIES

Brent: \$2.64  
Brent: \$2.49  
Brent: \$2.15  
Brent: \$2.01  
Brent: \$2.07  
Canada: \$2.37  
Denmark: \$1.70  
Finland: \$1.38  
France: \$1.05  
Germany: \$1.05  
Greece: \$1.25  
Hong Kong: \$1.58  
Iceland: \$1.50  
Italy: \$1.20  
Japan: \$1.20  
Netherlands: \$1.42  
Norway: \$1.25  
Portugal: \$1.25  
South Africa: \$1.25  
Spain: \$1.25  
Sweden: \$1.25  
Switzerland: \$1.25  
Turkey: \$1.25  
USA: \$1.25  
Venezuela: \$1.25

Rules for small denomination bank notes apply to Barclays Bank PLC. Different rules apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 150.3 (October)

## Bank steps in to curb hopes of base rate cut

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Bank of England acted to halt speculation over an early cut in base rates as London's markets continued in the euphoric mood that followed Mrs Thatcher's resignation.

Stock market prices jumped 42.6 points to 2,170.5; sterling strengthened and short-term interest rates fell to levels that implied an almost immediate cut of half a percentage point in base rates. There was money market speculation that even bigger interest rate cuts were likely as soon as the Conservative leadership contest ended next week.

The Bank's signal – in the form of a two-week lending operation at the present base rate of 14 per cent – was aimed at suppressing hopes of lower rates soon. The Bank has repeatedly expressed its opposition to lower interest rates in the past few weeks, but has been unable to restrain the market's conviction that politics would soon dictate a cut.

Even talk of a possible tightening in Germany next month had little impact in these politically driven markets. There were reports from Washington that Bundesbank officials were planning a rate increase around the time of the European summit on December 12 and 13. This would be designed to demonstrate that Germany's domestic anti-inflation policy would not be sacrificed to meet the concerns over excessively high interest rates in France, Italy and other ERM countries.

Concerns about high German interest rates were sharpened by the news that Germany's M3 money supply had grown at an annualised rate of 5.7 per cent in October, against 5 per cent the month before. France also announced a stronger than expected GDP growth of 1.3 per cent in the

first quarter. This compared with 0.2 per cent in the second quarter and 0.8 per cent in the first three months of the year.

Despite concerns about monetary policy on the Continent, traders continued to speculate that a new Conservative leader would move aggressively on interest rates, perhaps as a prelude to a general election early next year.

National Westminster Bank contributed to the market's hopes with a prediction that base rates would be cut to 13.5 per cent soon after the new leader took office, with a further 0.5 per cent cut early next year.

Looking further ahead, it was "probable" that interest rates would fall to 12 per cent by the middle of next year, according to David Kern, NatWest's chief economist. Mr Kern added that rate cuts were unlikely to threaten sterling's position in the ERM, where its effective floor is DM2.84/85, compared with DM2.84/85, compared with

last night's rate of DM2.9240.

Mr Kern said the "powerful economic argument" for lowering interest rates would protect sterling from falling to its lowest levels.

Politics also seemed to point to a strong, or at least, stable pound. A strengthened commitment to the ERM by the new Conservative leader would insure the pound against any abrupt decline even if British rates were cut in the weeks ahead, argued foreign exchange analysts.

"It is like ERM entry all over again," said Jim O'Neill, chief economist of Swiss Bank. He added, however, that the financial euphoria could prove short-lived. The new prime minister might find it difficult to unite the Conservative party in time for an early general election and would be risking the credibility of Britain's ERM committee.

The Corporation of Lloyd's, which governs the market and has a payroll of 2,000, is under pressure to reduce its cost base and burden of regulation at a time of intense competition in the global insurance market.

Mr Coleridge, who succeeds Murray Lawrence and who has worked in the market since 1950, said he planned to review the roles and responsibilities of the 20 committees

if he cut interest rates much before Christmas.

On equities, George Hodson, a market strategist at SG Warburg, said: "The market's performance this week has shown that people are prepared to look through the short-term (political) uncertainties ... to next spring, by which time we should have had a cut in interest rates."

Traditionally the stock market rises towards the end of the year and many market operators are short of shares and facing cash-rich City institutions hunting bargain-priced shares.

Paul Walton, equity strategist at James Capel, said there was an underlying recovery in the stock market that was only connected to a change of premier in terms of the likely effect on sterling. "Most of the big institutional investors are now minded to buy on a regular basis rather than all at once. They have cash and think the bad news on profits is discounted in the market."

"They are now looking for recovery and for opportunities to buy into basically sound stocks that have fallen too far." Even in the Gulf might depress the market only briefly, Mr Walton added.

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# Lack of political will leaves Gatt talks unresolved

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

TRADE negotiators seeking to draft accords that will liberalize world trade on an unprecedented scale have effectively halted their efforts after nearly four years, leaving the issue of agricultural subsidies unresolved.

Lack of political will to compromise has halted progress with only nine days to go until the concluding ministerial conference meets in Brussels.

The conference was the deadline for reaching agreement on the ambitious "Uruguay Round" of talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, but it is likely that talks will run into next year.

A Gatt spokesman said talks had all but wound up their work at the organisation's Geneva headquarters yesterday. Arthur Dunkel, the Gatt director general, will make public the results on Tuesday, with draft agreements presented whether complete or not. The big political issues will be left unresolved.

Despite threatening noises from Washington, the European Community has shown no signs of improving its offer of 30 per cent cuts in its support to farm goods. A last-minute attempt by American negotiators and other leading agricultural exporters, such as Australia and Argentina, failed to narrow the gap.

Most of the agricultural exporters want subsidies cut by between 75 and 90 per cent, against which the EC offer appears extremely modest. Carla Hills, the American trade representative, fears the

EU position threatens the whole Gatt round.

Without concessions from the Europeans, primarily the French and Germans, she forces a large number of countries walking away from the negotiating table. Failure of the round could bring world recession and trade wars, she said.

France's powerful farming lobby is the main obstacle to concessions by the EC, while Germany is seen as merely backing the French position out of political solidarity.

EU officials feel that parties to compromise exist if politicians wish to follow them. Mr Dunkel will next week offer a paper of his own intended to point the way forward. He details the ten to 12 key political questions requiring an urgent answer.

Brussels has doggedly resisted a change to its 30 per cent cut proposal or calls to provide specific commitments on its controversial export subsidies and import barriers. Negotiators are convinced

that nothing will happen to change that until ministers meet next month.

Mr Dunkel has recently been trying to persuade governments that the Gatt round requires decisions at the highest level, as farm and trade ministers have reached an impasse. Although the round was discussed bilaterally at the Paris security conference summit this week, no result has emerged.

The Uruguay Round was debated in the Commons yesterday, with John Gummer, the agriculture minister, accusing British farmers and consumers of failing to face up to the issue of subsidy cuts. He said: "We have spent far too long pretending the Gatt round would not come about."

He underlined the importance of success on other aspects at the Uruguay Round, such as services and intellectual property, areas in which America this week made proposals likely to upset accords. The Gatt system would also have to be extended to give access to the newly democratised countries of eastern Europe.

David Clark, the shadow agriculture minister, gave warning that there was a prospect of the Uruguay Round failing, drawing attention to recent remarks from the American trade representative. "A trade war between the United States and the EC would really have catastrophic effects," Mr Clark said. He accused the government of simply seeking a damage limitation on the farm subsidy.

Dunkel: key questions

## Skoda still undecided on partner

From REUTER IN PRAGUE

SKODA, the Czechoslovak state-owned carmaker preparing to choose between Renault and Volkswagen in a multi-billion dollar partnership deal, has again denied that the issue is already settled.

"Negotiations are still open," Skoda said, as Roger Fauroux, French industry minister, and Raymond Levy, Régie Nationale des Usines Renault chairman, visited the Skoda works near Prague.

Renault and its partner Volvo have suggested that a decision in favour of Volkswagen would signal that Czechoslovakia is firmly part of the German sphere of economic influence. France has urged Czechoslovakia to demonstrate it wants balanced foreign trade relations.

Volkswagen has offered Skoda an DM8 billion deal. The Renault-Volvo offer, believed to be worth less, is due to be presented next week.

## G&G Kynoch to close factory

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

G&G KYNOCH, the Banffshire woollen manufacturer, is restructuring the company in the face of the depressed state of the textile market. Kynoch is closing down its manufacturing operation at Keith which is responsible for the bulk of the group's losses. The cost of the closure is £2.31 million.

The group made a pre-tax loss for the year to end August of £983,000 compared with a loss last year of £374,000. Turnover fell from £4.9 million to £4.02 million and the interest charge rose from £420,000 to £555,000. The extraordinary charge for the Keith closure gives a retained loss of £3.33 million compared with £416,000. The loss per share is 145p compared with 67p and there is no dividend.

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## INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

Normal rate	Compounded at the rate	Minimum investment £	Notice	Contact
<b>BANKS</b>				
Ordinary dep A/c:	3.50	3.60	2.90	none/none 7 day
Fixed Term Deposits:				
Barclays	10.00	10.00	5.00	25,000-50,000 1 min 071-026 1967
Barclays	10.00	10.00	5.00	25,000-50,000 3 min 071-026 1967
Lloyds	9.25	9.25	7.41	2,500-10,000 1 min Local Branch
Midland	9.25	9.25	7.25	10,000-20,000 1 min 071-260 2905
Midland	9.25	9.25	7.25	10,000-20,000 1 min 071-260 2905
NatWest	9.75	9.75	7.20	10,000-24,000 1 min 071-728 1000
NatWest	9.75	9.75	7.50	10,000-24,000 3 min 071-728 1000

## HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS

Bank of Scotland HMC	9.47	9.84	7.02	2,000 none 031-442 7777
Prime A/c	9.50	9.84	7.07	2,000 none 0304 222291
Co-operative	9.00	9.20	4.95	2,000 none 071-258 6645
Ulster	9.00	9.20	4.95	1,000 none 071-258 6645
Barclays	9.00	9.20	4.95	2,000 none 071-258 6645
Lloyds HICA	9.50	9.50	5.20	2,000 none 07274 433272
Midland HICA	9.50	9.77	7.02	2,000 none
Westpac	9.00	9.24	5.58	500 none 071-374 3374
Royal Bank of	9.00	9.24	5.58	500 none 071-374 3374
Scot. Nat. Bank	9.00	9.25	7.41	2,000 none 031-559 8555
TSB (England & Wales)	9.25	9.25	6.80	2,000 none 071-600 6000

## BUILDING SOCIETIES

Ordinary Share	A/c	6.15	6.15	4.92	1 min	none	—
<b>Best buy - largest issue:</b>							
Britannia	9.15	9.15	7.32	250 min	none	—	—
National & Prov	9.75	9.75	7.60	250 min	none	—	—
Cheltenham & Gloucester	11.00	11.00	7.24	250 min	none	—	—
Midland	11.75	11.75	9.40	10,000 min	90 day	—	—
Bristol & West	12.00	12.00	9.60	25,000 min	1 year	—	—
<b>Best buy - all socs:</b>							
Homeserve Fund	10.15	10.15	8.11	500 min	30 day	—	—
Bank Investment	12.07	12.07	9.65	20,000 min	90 day	—	—
Investment Fund	11.00	11.00	8.00	2,000 min	3 yrs	071-649 4555	—
Deposit Bond	13.50	10.13	8.10	3 min	071-649 4555	—	—
50th issue Cert	9.50	9.50	6.50	25,000 min	6 day	071-388 4600	—
Yearly Plc	9.50	9.50	6.50	20,000 min	14 day	071-388 4600	—
<b>Cash/Cheque Accounts:</b>							
Card Cash	3.75	3.75	3.00	1 min	—	—	—
Barclays	6.00	6.00	5.52	500 min	with larger	balances	—
Leicester	6.00	6.00	4.80	1 min	—	—	—
Nationwide	6.00	6.00	4.80	1 min	—	—	—
Anglia Plc	6.00	6.00	4.80	1 min	—	—	—
Compiled by Chris de Vos. See page 20 for further details							

NATIONAL SAVINGS	Ordinary A/c	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day	041-548 4555
Investment A/c	12.75	9.50	7.25	25,000-50,000	3 yrs	041-548 4555	—
Investment Bond	12.75	10.00	8.00	2,000 min	3 yrs	0295 681 6151	—
Deposit Bond	13.50	10.13	8.10	3 min	041-548 4555	—	—
50th issue Cert	9.50	9.50	6.50	25,000 min	6 day	071-388 4600	—
Yearly Plc	9.50	9.50	6.50	20,000 min	14 day	071-388 4600	—
Extension Rate	5.01	5.01	5.01	100-100,000	5 yrs	041-548 4555	—
Capital Bond	13.00	9.75	7.80	—	—	—	—

## GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Holiday Guarantees	10.40	10.40	9.64	5,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from	—
Liberty Life	10.70	10.70	8.09	25,000 min	2 yrs	for details	—
Chase De Vere	10.50	10.50	8.92	2,000 min	3 yrs	071-442 5776	—
Consolidated Life	10.10	10.10	8.58	2,000 min	3 yrs	071-442 5776	—
Financial Adviser	10.35	10.35	8.50	5,000 min	5 yrs	for details	—

Holiday rates: Spanish, Portuguese, 10.40%; French, 9.64%; Greek, 9.24%; Italian, 9.16%. For details, see page 20.







# Borrowers count cost of loan deals

By HELEN PRIDHAM

BUILDING societies are increasingly linking special mortgage deals to their combined buildings and contents insurance package. These arrangements may bring savings initially in the form of lower monthly repayments, but in the longer term, borrowers will often be able to save more money buying home insurance cover separately.

The Halifax is one of the latest to offer such an arrangement. The society recently launched a 1.25 per cent discount for first-time borrowers that runs until the end of December 1991 on the condition that its home insurance is taken as well.

Reductions on larger loans, low-start mortgages and fixed-rate deals may all have such strings attached.

Societies were able to start offering their own home insurance packages after the 1986 Building Societies Act. The policies are usually underwritten by a panel of leading insurers, such as Commercial Union, Eagle Star, Legal & General and Sun Alliance. The commission the societies earn provides a useful source of extra income.

Last week, the Leeds Permanent published annual figures showing that its income from commissions had risen by £20 million to £90 million.

Where the combined property and contents cover is offered as an optional extra,

societies find that the take-up is about 40 per cent of new borrowers. The combined packages have the advantage of convenience, as home buyers do not have to bother about taking out separate policies.

Normally there is no need to work out the value of possessions. Most societies use the value and location of the property as their guide to calculating premiums, and accidental damage cover is often automatically included as well.

The amount of contents cover varies. The cover may be a fixed amount such as the £35,000 offered by Leeds Permanent, or, as at the Nationwide, 50 per cent of the amount for which the buildings are insured.

The Halifax also works on 50 per cent of cover, though in the event of a claim, the amount for contents cover is flexible. For example, on a £30,000 property, total cover would be £75,000, but more than £25,000 could be claimed for contents if required.

Increasingly, the amount of contents cover being provided by the societies' packages is unlimited. So the danger of underinsurance, which exists under a traditional policy, is avoided and there is no risk of claims being reduced.

But borrowers should look carefully at how much they are paying for this peace of mind. Premiums vary considerably between societies and some

are more competitive in lower risk areas than higher risk areas and vice versa.

The rates the largest societies would charge for a property in a higher risk area such as Harrow, north London, and a low risk area on the outskirts of Bradford, West Yorkshire, are shown in the table. The premiums include cover for accidental damage.

For Harrow, premiums vary between £451.00 and £688.08, while for Bradford the range is £222.60 to £351.10.

How these premiums compare with what homebuyers can obtain elsewhere will very much depend on how much the home contents are actually worth.

For someone living in a Harrow property with a rebuilding cost of £94,000, with contents worth half that amount, then the societies' premiums are competitive compared with those charged by Municipal Mutual, a low cost home insurer, or Directline, a company that started out offering motor insurance at reduced rates direct to the public over the telephone. For the Bradford property, however, both companies would charge less.

The difference is more marked where the home contents are of modest value. This may apply particularly to first-time buyers, who are unlikely to have large amounts of possessions when they set up home.

If the contents are only worth 20 per cent of the value of the property in each case, equivalent to £18,800 in Harrow and £10,600 in Bradford, the savings possible by insuring independently would be considerable.

The difference between the cost of this cover for the Bradford property from Directline compared with the Halifax package is nearly £200 a year. This is less than the saving from the 1.25 per cent.

Building societies may make a £20 to £25 administrative charge to effect the change on buildings cover, but no fee is levied for taking out separate contents insurance.



first-time buyer's discount given by the Halifax, which would work out at £531 on a £50,000 mortgage over one year. After that it would make sense to switch.

Existing borrowers who are not benefiting from interest discounts and do not live in high risk areas could save considerably if they make the effort to check the value of their possessions and find alternative quotes.

Building societies may make a £20 to £25 administrative charge to effect the change on buildings cover, but no fee is levied for taking out separate contents insurance.

Society	Contents cover	Location/rebuilding value of property	
		Harrow Hat, £20,000 per cent	Bradford S028 £23,000 per cent
Halifax	50% of prop val	£678.80	£254.80
Abbey National Nationwide Anglia	25% of prop val	£72.30	£335.10
Woolwich	Unlimited	£26.40	£243.80
Alliance & Leicester	Unlimited	£73.40	£254.40
Leeds Permanent	25% of prop val	£91.15	£254.40
Midland & Provincial	Unlimited	£93.40	£254.40
Cheltenham & Gloucester	Unlimited	£87.84	£233.32
Bradford & Bingley	Unlimited	£17.00	£254.40
Erithaus	Unlimited	£65.52	£222.60
Directline	50%	£70.00	£150.00
Municipal Mutual	20%	£82.00	£60.00
	50%	£705.00	£212.00
	20%	£365.00	£131.00

All premiums quoted include accidental damage cover, though in many cases policies are available without this cover at a lower premium. \*Contents cover not limited to 50% see text. \*\*Stamp of cover selected by policyholder.

## BRIEFINGS

WOOLWICH Life has introduced a guaranteed income account paying a guaranteed monthly income over three years. The minimum investment is £2,000 and the account pays 9.5 per cent. Sums over £10,000 earn 9.65 per cent.

■ All new Bradford & Bingley borrowers are being offered a one-year discount on mortgages from Monday. Loans up to £40,000 will be 0.25 per cent lower. Up to £60,000 they will have a 0.5 per cent discount and above £60,000 they will be 0.8 per cent cheaper.

■ Diners Club will donate £25 to three charities on behalf of card holders spending £250 or more on their cards before December 25, or £10 for £150. The three charities are the Parkinson's Disease Society, the Riding for the Disabled Association and the Royal

Society for Nature Conservation. Cardholders can also nominate their own charity.

■ Owner-managers of companies often pay too much tax because they do not co-ordinate their business and personal affairs, Neville Russell, the chartered accountancy, has said. The firm has brought out a guide to tax planning costing £4.95.

■ Employers competing for scarce staff will improve the range of benefits available, but staff have different ideas about what perks they want, according to a survey for the Woolwich Building Society. Free copies are available on 071 630 3611.

# Land Registry opens records for inspection

By MARGARET DIBBEN

ANYONE who has ever wondered who owns the empty house next door or the vacant plot of land at the bottom of the garden will soon have a better chance of finding out.

From December 3, the Land Registry will be open to the public for the first time. Then, everyone will have the right to check on the ownership of houses or land. Ramblers, whose path over a public right of way is barred, and property developers looking for empty land on which to build, can discover who to approach.

Owners cannot refuse to have their property included on the register, although very shy landowners can use some names to hide their identity.

The open register will not answer every enquiry because not all land is registered, even though the Land Registry started operating late last century. Land and houses are entered on the register on the first occasion they change ownership after registration starts in that area. If a property never changes hands it never comes on to the register.

There has been a rolling programme of compulsory registration and the final six areas will be added next Saturday. Properties in parts of Essex, Suffolk, and Hereford and Worcester will only start coming on to the register when they are sold after that date.

At present, the register contains about 13 million properties with an estimated 9 million still unregistered, although the situation is not as clear cut as it sounds. John O'Sullivan, registry spokesman, said: "One field would be registered as one entry. But if someone decided to build 800 houses on it, then what was one entry becomes 800 entries."

There will be a charge of £6, which is not refundable, to find out whether a property is registered. For £12 the name of the owner will be given and the second £6 is refundable if the land proves to be unregistered. For a further £6 a plan of the property can be provided. There is no fee for

EDITED BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR.

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Please note. It's obviously important to make sure you don't take on more than you can afford. We will be glad to talk to you about this before you borrow. And if you should run into difficulties with repayments, please talk to us as early as possible. The bank will require a first charge over the property and a first charge of an approved life policy (or policies).

**YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.**

A written quotation is available from your local Barclays branch or Barclays Bank PLC, Home Mortgage Unit, PO Box 120, Longwood Close, Westwood Business Park, Coventry CV4 8JN. (Member of IMRO).

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## LETTERS

## Policy endorsements added after renewal paid

From Mrs A. R. Brown  
Sir. We have a house contents insurance policy with a well-known insurance company and almost every year, after having paid the premium for "renewal of the existing policy" we have only subsequently received details of "endorsements" or "important policy changes".

These changes have been neither requested nor notified,

still less agreed, before policy renewal, and cannot be justified as no insurance claims have ever been made on the policy. One recent endorsement removed, among other things, all cover for theft if the property was unoccupied for more than 24 hours!

We are at present contesting a policy amendment which removes all cover on a holiday home when unoccupied for 30

days or more, thus invalidating the whole purpose of the policy. Surely it should be illegal for companies to change policy details without the policyholder's prior knowledge or consent? Do other readers have similar problems?

Yours faithfully,  
A. R. BROWN,  
Argent, 32600 L'Isle-Jourdain,  
France.

## The overdraft is to pay off the overdraft arrangement fee



## Account closed over charges

From Mrs E. Lewis,

Sir, Like Mr O'Leary's (Weekend Money letters, November 17), I too have been unable to obtain any tax relief from Bupa. However, I have a letter from the Treasury confirming that "... the balance of the premium he pays from his own resources should be eligible for relief. Bupa should be able to give him more details about this." The letter is dated June 27.

Despite reminders, Bupa have been unable to give me any details. Their treatment of LP subscribers differs markedly from their treatment of others. Perhaps the Director of Fair Trading should take an interest in their lack of activity, which seems to be unfair to the "captive" LP subscribers who must continue to be members willy-nilly.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD C. PETERSEN,  
15 West End Terrace,  
Winchester, Hampshire.

More junk mail or should I call it additional services?



drawn but timed the charges so that I would star of the next quarter overdrawn, and would presumably be charged by them for this (charges on charges)?

I have a high interest cheque account with the same branch so a phone call or letter from them (for which I would have paid) could have averted these charges, as I would have transferred funds from the HICA object to paying £17.05 Activity Charge plus £1.25 for "additional services". What additional services?

Initially I have found to my cost that the balance of account details obtainable at cash dispenser machine outlets aren't always up to date, hence my becoming overdrawn.

More power to your column.

Yours sincerely,  
E. LEWIS,  
47 Blenheim Grove,  
London, SE15.

## Right to complain about health premium relief

From Mr David Money-Coutts

Sir, Mr O'Leary quite rightly complains that Bupa is unable to deduct tax from the balance of his premium after deduction of his Lifelong Protection benefit, despite his being over 65.

Presumably, however, he can himself claim that tax

relief direct from the Inland Revenue.

I am under 65 and pay a Lifelong Protection premium which is exclusively for the provision of health care after I became 65. In the spirit of the 1989 Finance Act that premium should attract tax relief but it does not. Would the

Treasury care to make an appropriate amendment in the 1991 Finance Act, or sooner?

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MONEY-COUTTS,  
Magpie House,  
Peppard Common,  
Henley-on-Thames,  
Oxfordshire.

could stamp on us because we were not big enough to bite.

"We decided to take the case to the small claims court and filed for £500 plus costs: Norwich Union's solicitor denied liability and a date was set for an arbitration hearing. They did not turn up so a second hearing was set for Friday, November 23, at Westonsuper-Mare County Court."

On Tuesday, Mr Baker heard that the insurance company had paid £500 plus the £37 costs.

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A spokesman for Norwich Union confirmed the company had paid the full amount of the claim in the court. He explained why it had not paid earlier: "If something blows off the roof of a house in exceptional weather conditions it is unfortunate but it does not mean the owner has been negligent."

"As time progressed we felt our case was not absolutely cast iron and we decided to pay into the small claims

court." But Norwich Union will now set about recovering its money from Co-operative Insurance. The contents of the property were insured by the latter and legal liability claims are normally covered by the contents and not the buildings policy.

Insurers' cover a householder's legal liability, but the Norwich Union spokesman said that this was not "no fault" insurance.

"We got the feeling that because it was a big company with structural engineers and lawyers to call on they felt they

TEN months after her car was written off by coping stones falling on it in the January storms, a reader has received compensation from Norwich Union.

Iris Baker, of Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, parked her ten-year-old Datsun Sunny in the town's Adam Street on January 25. When she returned to collect it she found that masonry from a house had fallen on to the car and punctured the bonnet. The engine was damaged and the car was written off.

The householder provided details of his buildings insurance and Mrs Baker made a claim for the value of the car from Norwich Union, the insurer of the building. She was refused on the grounds that the householder had not been negligent, but decided to take the matter further.

Kevin Baker, her husband, said: "They told us it was an act of God, but we argued that if adequate steps had been taken to maintain the building the damage would not have happened."

"We got the feeling that because it was a big company with structural engineers and lawyers to call on they felt they

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"As time progressed we felt our case was not absolutely cast iron and we decided to pay into the small claims

## Bank customer counts cost of increasing overdraft limit

From Mr N. Hamilton-Hamill  
Sir, With reference to the letter from David Channing Overdraft charges, on November 17. Count yourself lucky Mr Channing, I recently exceeded my arranged overdraft facility and received a letter saying they were going to charge me 31.7 per cent interest because that was the law, and they did.

Then I went to see them to arrange an increase in my overdraft facility. They wanted to charge an "arrangement fee" for this of £300. I

negotiated that down to £150!

I know a little about customers but not a lot. Can it really cost that sort of money to reset an overdraft report figure?

Perhaps we (us bank "customers") should all contribute to your fees to go in and show them how to do it for a fiver – which I suspect is what it really costs.

Yours faithfully,  
N. HAMILTON-HAMILL  
6 Avenue Road,  
Staines,  
Middlesex.

## Ernie 'picks young winners'

From Mr Richard F. Messik  
Sir, First Direct seem to be a curious lot, as Michael Owen found out.

I was not asked for previous bank statements, but they seem to be excessively security conscious, needing a password, my mother's maiden name and a memorable (to me) date.

I presume this was to check if I really am the person on the phone.

On the other hand if I go to the "hole in the wall" for my balance, the figure in brilliant green light is displayed for anyone to see – unlike the National Westminster Bank, who issue a discreet printed slip, reverse view to the public, which also forms a useful record.

But First Direct's 9 per cent on the current account is very attractive.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD F. MESSIK  
Littlefold, 1 Farm Way,  
Northwood,  
Middlesex.

## Rate rise "would improve prizes"

From Mr Allan Makinson  
Sir, The correspondents questioning the fairness of Ernie's distribution of prizes have all missed the important point that if the Government paid out a fair rate of interest on the prize fund instead of the measly 6.5 per cent on which winnings are based, all bondholders would stand to gain at least a 50 per cent improvement on

their chances of a win!

Yours faithfully,  
ALLAN MAKINSON,  
8 Wheatear Avenue,  
Fence, Burnley,  
Lancashire.

● Letters are welcomed, but The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns.

## Final account shows why financial community welcomes Peps

From R. A. Nicholls  
Sir, I invested £2,400 in BP shares in a NatWest personal equity plan in November 1987.

This week I withdrew the investment, and the final account over almost exactly three years is: my profit, £1,075.39; NatWest fees, £131.54; brokers' fees, £99.93; stamp duty and VAT, £34.34.

It would have been difficult to have earned less than £700 tax-free from a building society for the same investment for the same time, and an investment that gives £34 to

the government can hardly be called tax-free. However, it is quite clear why the financial services community welcomes these plans.

Yours faithfully,  
R. A. NICHOLLS,  
45 Round Street,  
Sherbourne, Dorset.

## PERSONAL PENSIONS

## Would you like to improve your pension prospects?

There are many companies offering personal pension plans but had you selected a poor performer then your choice would have cost you dearly.

For example, a recent survey by Planned Savings magazine showed that for exactly the same outlay our 10 year with-profits plan was worth 69% more than the worst performer.

This is just the most recent example of the kind of performance we have achieved compared with our competitors, not in a single year, but consistently year after year.

Past performance, however, does not guarantee future performance.

Call Aylesbury (0296) 26226 or return this coupon if you would like further information by post and by telephone.

\*Planned Savings survey of regular annual contribution with-profits personal pension plans June 1990.

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I am an employee not on a company pension scheme.

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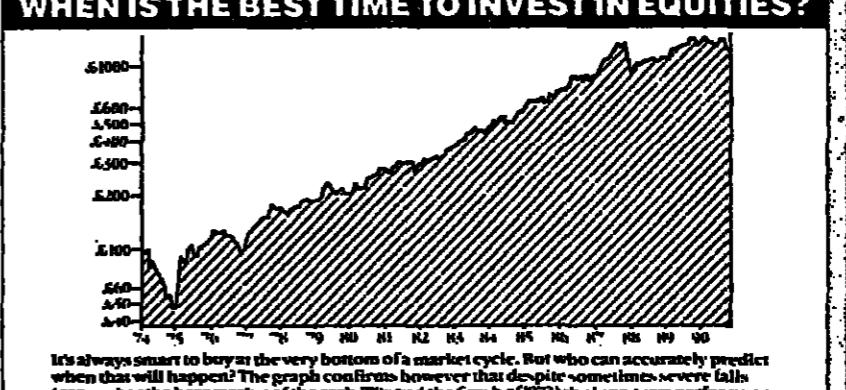
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- ✓ NO worries about short-term market timing
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- ✓ Choice of three top portfolios – Growth, Income and International – and choice of 6 or 12 month phasing periods
- ✓ High rates of interest on cash on deposit

## WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO INVEST IN EQUITIES?



It's always smart to buy at the very bottom of a market cycle. But who can accurately predict when that will happen? The graph confirms however that despite sometimes severe falls (remember the bear market of the early '70s and the Crash of '87) the long-term performance trend of the FTSE All Share Index has been firmly upward.

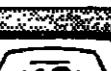
Source: Micropal. Performance from 1/1/74 – 1/1/90.

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Details of the pension tracing service to be set up next April by the government were published yesterday. They fall far short of the expectations raised by the social security department last autumn when it announced the scheme was to be set up.

The pensions registry is to be operated by the Occupational Pensions Board and will be able to provide employees with information dating back to 1975, when preserved pensions began. It will not help those nearing retirement to trace money held by the pension schemes of long-defunct companies.

Those nearing retirement who want help in finding pension money frozen since the Fifties or Sixties will receive no help from official sources. They will still have to rely on the voluntary help of the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service (Opas) and other organisations — or try a little pensions sleuthing themselves.

The vast majority of tracing cases referred to Opas involve pre-1975 entitlements. Deferred pensions earned long ago can

take months to locate as companies may have been taken over more than once. Those who have moved from one part of the country to another can easily lose contact with old employers and not hear of changes of name or ownership.

Pension entitlements are often held by insurance companies and not by the original company or firm that took it over. Insurance companies currently hold lots of small unclaimed pensions because of the difficulties facing employees trying to trace their funds. Many people who remember leaving pension money behind give up when they are told there are no pensions records dating back to their period of employment.

It is a shame that the opportunity to help sort out the pre-1975 pensions tangle has not been tackled. Many companies did not have computerised records before preservation began, but they should know



## COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

which old schemes have been absorbed into their own. They could have been required to provide such information.

This will undoubtedly build up to a useful service for people who have only post-1975 pensionable service. Older people will have to find their own pensions.

### Open land

At long last home owners may stand a chance against property developers and others who seem determined to run down their neighbourhoods. The Land Registry is to be open to the public from December 3.

This will eventually enable anyone to find out who owns what property. If a consortium starts buying up houses in the area, neighbours will be able to find out. They should also be able to discover who is responsible for run-down properties occupied by squatters or the owners of derelict and overgrown land.

Such enquiries may give the first hint of a planned development and allow residents more time to prepare for battle. In other cases, where properties have been allowed to fall into disrepair, owners can be located by prospective buyers.

Tenants will be able to bypass agents and find out who their

landlord is when repairs are needed.

Initially there are only 13 million properties registered, but each time one of the remaining 9 million is sold it will be added to the register.

It has long been a nonsense that this publicly-held information has been denied to the public.

But how long we would have had to wait to have access to these records if the housing market had not collapsed, forcing the registry to look for replacement revenue, is a question that must be considered.

### City damaged

Stock Group investors who have been waiting since June to have their cash restored to them should see some progress soon. The investors caught in the collapse of British and Commonwealth have had cash realised

from share sales frozen in the B&C merchant bank.

While the direct customers of the bank have been paid compensation of up to £15,000 each by the deposit protection board, clients of B&C intermediaries have had to wait for the brokers to supply information to the bank compensation scheme.

A series of letters have been sent to the brokers detailing exactly what is needed, but, until now, Stock Group has failed to come up with information on what was held for clients on a specific date.

Now one of the investors has been promised in a letter from Stock Group that all the information will be handed over by this weekend.

By next weekend clients should be told exactly what their assets are.

If this proves to be correct, it will be only a matter of weeks before compensation is paid.

Many of the investors are likely to think twice before trusting a broker again. The whole business has damaged the reputation of the City for straight dealing.

## Royal drops doctor's report and puts trust in applicants

MEDICAL reports from doctors to back up applications for life assurance are being scrapped by one large life office and replaced with questionnaires to be filled in by the applicants.

Royal Life hopes its eight-page medical conditions questionnaire will avoid delays of two to three weeks, which it says are common among doctors filling in the three-page medical attendance report.

Royal says it is the first to have introduced self-policing medical questionnaires. Other life offices require a medical attendance report, depending on age and how much cover is required.

Asking applicants to fill in their own medical questionnaire will also save the £20 fee life companies have to pay doctors filling in forms. This cost is indirectly met by policyholders through their premiums. The questionnaire has eight sections covering anxiety or depression, arthritis, asthma, bronchitis, epilepsy, growths and tumours, high blood pressure, stomach and "female" complaints.

Most life offices require one of two kinds of medical reports. Limits vary from company to company, but anyone

wanting an endowment policy of more than £80,000 to cover a mortgage will probably find his or her doctor is asked by the life company to fill in a medical attendance record. This shows the applicant's past medical history.

For cover of more than £200,000, companies will normally require potential policyholders to undergo a medical examination.

Spencer Leigh, chief underwriter at Royal Life, said: "We are circumventing the medical attendance report, which can take a fortnight or three weeks. Very few doctors send it back by return of post and if a person wants access to their report, as they are allowed to under the Access to Medical Reports Act, it can take longer."

No one under the age of 40 wanting less than £100,000 of cover would need to fill in a questionnaire and only those who have already declared a

medical problem on their original proposal form would be asked to give more details.

"If people give us more detail we will normally be able to accept their proposal immediately," said Mr Leigh.

Anyone wanting more than £200,000 of cover will still have to undergo a medical examination.

Scottish Life will accept applications from people up to the age of 55 for amounts up to £75,000 if it is an endowment to cover mortgages.

Above this, applicants have to have a medical attendance report. Applicants aged less than 30 for shorter term endowments will be subjected to a medical report if they want more than £175,000 of cover. Those over 50 need a medical report for more than £60,000.

Ray Milne, assistant general manager of marketing at Scottish Life, questioned whether people might be tempted to

hide information on a form they filled in themselves.

"The danger of this approach is that it invites non-disclosure. People may not want to put things down because they're embarrassed. But non-disclosure is fraud and life companies are not legally obliged to pay out on claims."

Mr Leigh said: "The non-disclosure rate across all policies is about 15 per cent at the moment. But I am sticking my neck out and saying people will be willing to help."

Ray Morley, marketing services manager at Commercial Union, said: "There is no reason to think people are other than honest. But there is a danger that the company may have to make an assumption if people do not give enough medical information which could work against the policyholder."

Commercial Union requires medical attendance re-

ports on applicants wanting more than £80,000 of cover on a 25 year mortgage endowment. People needing more than £120,000 require a medical examination. Everyone over the age of 60 needs a report for shorter-term endowments, but younger people wanting more than £60,000 will also have to give medical information.

• The Association of British Insurers (ABI) is holding talks with the health department to decide whether to ban life companies from asking applicants if they have had a positive Aids test. Several states in America already outlaw the practice and other countries are moving towards a voluntary ban.

At present, British insurers say they will continue to ask about Aids, on the grounds that the information helps them underwrite the risk accurately.

A spokesman for the ABI said: "Companies will need convincing about the truth of anecdotal evidence that people are being dissuaded from taking tests because they are frightened of not being able to get life assurance."

By SARA MCCONNELL

### FIXED RATE TIME DEPOSIT

Halifax Building Society offers an attractive fixed rate opportunity for those with substantial sums to invest.

It's called a Time Deposit, a high return investment for sums of £50,000 or more.

And it promises significant advantages for the astute investor, especially if you want to secure a fixed rate investment while interest rates are still high.

### NOW THERE'S A SAFE WAY INTO THE BIG TIME.

This is because the interest rate is set to reflect money market conditions. (These change, of course, so you can check the going rate at Halifax branches.)

And once your rate is agreed, it's fixed for the full term of the deposit.

What's more, interest is paid gross, which can make this a tax-efficient investment now that husbands and wives are assessed independently.

As for the term itself, that's entirely up to you; any period from one month to a year. (With the option of reinvesting the capital or capital and interest.)

If you'd like to talk more about Time Deposits, why not call into your nearest Halifax branch? It's your open door to a very rewarding return.



## Investors' thoughts turn to electricity flotation

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR



who choose to wait to find out what their proceeds will be are being offered a free financial assessment. Cheques will be sent out the following day with the contract note but they will be post-dated to the settlement date.

If customers pay the cheque into a Yorkshire account on settlement day the society will give immediate clearance of up to £500 in cash instead of making customers wait the usual ten days for clearance.

The Norwich & Peterborough Building Society is offering dealing from the first day for investors and will allow sellers to specify a minimum price. The society will be sent out the following day with the contract note but they will be post-dated to the settlement date.

Prospectuses will be available in banks, post offices, brokers' offices and some building societies from next Wednesday. Application forms will also begin to be published in newspapers from that date.

The initial stake is £1 per share, with a minimum investment in any company of £100 at the outset. Then investors have almost two years to meet the rest of the £24.40 price per share. The second instalment of 70p is due in October next year and the final instalment in September 1992.

Those customers who registered with the share information office by November 14 will be able to choose either electricity bill discount vouchers, worth £1.80 for every 100 shares up to a maximum of £270, or a bonus of one free share for every ten held for three years, up to a maximum of 300 free shares.

Few applicants will be able to bank the expected profit before Christmas because, like the water companies, this privatisation is not being dealt for cash. Dealing is expected to begin on December 11 but only those who have made prior arrangements with brokers will be able to sell then because interim certificates are not expected to be delivered until December 19.

National Westminster will be alone in offering cash settlement, and then only through its 270 touchscreens in main branches. The minimum fee will be £20 and a cheque will be handed over

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## SUMMARY

## Trust offers tax break on rights

INVESTORS in the Trio Investment Trust, a new index tracking trust from Raphael Zorn Hemsey, the stockbroker, will be able to take dividends and profits tax-free should the firm make a rights issue next year, so long as they put their shares into a personal equity plan (Pep).

The company has launched the trust by issuing £4 million of shares and is authorised to increase this ten-fold to exploit a Pep loophole. The Inland Revenue confirmed that investors could go over the yearly £6,000 Pep investment limit as long as the rights issue was genuine.

## Boy wonder



Storehouse may have aged Michael Julien but he still retains the Biggles-like vigour and devotion to duty that keep him thriving under pressure. Hard work and hard talk, here to Gillian Bowditch, are the hallmarks of the perfectionist chief executive. Page 43

## Power deals

The electricity sell-off is going ahead even without Mrs Thatcher. Building societies, banks and stockbrokers continue to tempt the public with cheap dealing rates for shares in the 12 regional electricity companies. Page 42

## Share out

Britain has not become a nation of shareholders. Dealing is still too complex and expensive for many small investors, despite interest in privatisation issues. Private investors hold fewer British shares now than at any time over the past 20 years. Page 42

## Your views

Seems young animals are more equal than others.



The debate about the chances of winning on the premium bonds continues in readers' letters. Page 41

## Loan ties

Home owners may be paying far more than they need to if they take buildings and contents insurance linked to a mortgage from a building society. Page 40

## Open land

The Land Registry is finally opening its doors to the public from December 3. People will be able to inspect details of all property on its records, with a better chance of discovering who owns what. Page 40

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

## Thatcher's shock cure

"When she was elected, British industry seemed in terminal decline... Not only was Britain the sick man of Europe, it was getting sicker. Thatcher administered shock treatment." Business in The Sunday Times tomorrow.

Ditching domestic junk can prove surprisingly profitable

## Car boot sales bring out eager bargain hunters in droves

By ANNE CABORN

Even few years most homes suffer a bout of indigestion. Cupboards groan under the weight of domestic detritus: clothes that no longer fit, coffee makers without their glass jugs, and brass chandeliers from the bathroom refit that have never quite proved as useful as they looked.

One way of dealing with them is a car boot sale, which not only jettisons unwanted items but makes money too. In size, they range from a few cars parked on school playing fields to large commercial events attracting thousands of customers.

One of the biggest on the south coast is held on the British Rail station car park at Brighton every Sunday. The sale attracts up to 300 vehicles and stalls.

"I have been here when the snow has been four inches thick on the ground and you still get 40 cars," said Fred Johns, who manages the sale for Bray Associates, the organiser.

Brighton is popular with amateur and professional traders, so sellers have to turn up early to be sure of a place. I arrived at Brighton station at 5.30 am to find I was nowhere near the first in the queue.

"Five or six charities here," Mr Johns added.

Trading activities for charities are exempt from tax, unless carried out on a regular basis or as a business. Personal goods and chattels sold for profit are also exempt, but the chances are that at a car boot sale the items are being sold at a loss. The Inland Revenue would start to take an interest if anyone started to buy goods to

"Brighton is popular with amateurs and professional traders, so sellers have to turn up early to be sure of a place. I arrived at Brighton station at 5.30 am to find I was nowhere near the first in the queue"

sell, or were selling other people's goods for commission.

Attic clearers should take time to choose a sale. The larger, more popular ones can have higher entrance fees, but a large crowd looking for a wider range of goods is almost guaranteed.

At Brighton, cars queue according to size. Mr Johns directs the ranks of vehicles with the precision of a major-general. "Some people say I am not particularly nice to know first thing on Sunday morning."

A number of organisations and individuals use sales as a way of raising money for charity. "On any one Sunday, we might have

Dealers tend to be among the first to arrive, intent on snapping

up the best bargains before regular customers turn up.

Good quality furniture, objets d'art and memorabilia should be appraised and sold through reputable dealers or auction houses. Never part with something at a car boot sale unless certain it is of little real value. Better quality clothes should be sold through dress agencies and good quality hardback books through second hand book sellers. Older books, first and short run editions should be expertly priced. I had already taken the better hardback books to our local bookseller the week before attending a sale and raised £10, but that still left six boxes of car boot items and a director's chair that had been the victim of a pot of white paint. The chair sold for £3.50. Altogether, I made £73.

The secret is not to mark prices on items, that way people have to strike up a conversation and it gives the opportunity to haggle. It is often difficult to put a price on items, but customers will have a clear idea of what they are prepared to pay. Their price might be higher than one would have asked.

The aim should be to sell a lot at modest prices. The objective is to get rid of unwanted items and the last thing anyone wants is to cart them all home again. At a car boot sale people want a bargain. There is nothing that cannot be sold. I parted with an old air vent for 20p, two Air Mauritius complementary business class travel packs for £1.70, and a picture of Christopher Reeve dressed as Superman for 50p. Second hand clothes that fell short of dress agency standard and paperback novels were also popular.



Household rubbish: seemingly useless clutter can still be of value to car boot sale enthusiasts.

There is no national organisation for car boot sale organisers, although a few belong to the Association of Private Market Operators, formed this year to promote and improve the image of markets.

"The best source of information is usually your local paper," said Brian Nunan, secretary of the new association and managing director of Bray Associates. "A lot of them are organised by schools and

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the week. Broken items are a frequent feature of car boot sales. They are a haven for Mr Fixits and DIY enthusiasts, but the condition of the item should be made

"Attic clearers should take time to choose a car boot sale.

The larger, more popular ones can have higher entrance fees, but a large crowd looking for a wider range of goods is almost guaranteed."

He has noticed a marked increase in car boot "weekenders", people who sell personal possessions on a regular basis to boost income. "They are regulars, rather than professionals."

Adrian Linsen, aged 22, and Paul Adlier, aged 19, are students and now Brighton regulars. "We came here once to sell stuff from my mother's attic," said Paul. Both men are electronics buffs and now sell reconditioned hi-fi equipment.

"We've been doing it for six weeks now," said Adrian, who works for an electrical firm during

initiate specific investigations and no legislation is planned.

Anything that turns out to be stolen has to be returned to its rightful owner. It is possible to take civil action against the person who sold them, but this is rarely worth the time, effort and money.

"That's the general rule," said a trade department spokeswoman, "but much depends on individual circumstances".

Items to be particularly wary of include microwave ovens and portable televisions.

Buying from a professional trader at a car boot sale gives the customer the same rights as they would have elsewhere, which includes items being of merchantable quality and fit for its purpose, even if second hand.

Buying from a private individual gives customers fewer rights. The Sale of Goods Act simply says goods should match their description. So the more asked about the value and condition of the item the better. With anything of worth, ask for the seller's name and address.

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NIGEL FARROW



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